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MODERN LAWN TENNIS

THE PRESS ON

"Modern Lawn Tennis"

Illustrated Sporting and Dramatic News.—"As a work on modern lawn tennis Mr. Vaile's book undoubtedly 'stands alone.'"

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P. A. VAILE

PLAYING A SMASH

MODERN LAWN TENNIS

BY

P. A. VAILE

Illustrated by Explanatory Diagrams and by Action Photographs taken expressly for this Work by G. W. Beldam

LONDON
WILLIAM HEINEMANN
1907

P. A. VAILE

PLAYING A SMASH

Frontispiece

MODERN LAWN TENNIS

BY

R. A. VAILE

With many Diagrams and by Action Photographs for this Work by W. Boland

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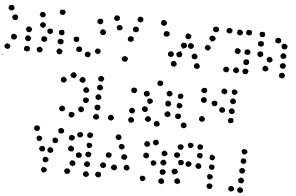

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THIS BOOK IS DEDICATED TO

B. C. EVÉLEGH, Esq.

AS WORTHILY REPRESENTING THE MALE INTEREST IN MODERN LAWN TENNIS,

AND TO

MRS. GEORGE W. HILLYARD

AS REPRESENTING THE LAWN TENNIS PLAYERS OF THE GENTLER SEX

PREFACE

NEARLY every one who essays to write a book about anything, especially if it be connected with sport, makes frantic efforts to trace its evolution from the time when prehistoric man had a "go" at it in his rudimentary and unhampered way. For instance, I have seen learned arguments, ably illustrated, devoted to proving that the same scantily-clad gentleman enjoyed ping-pong, certainly not under association rules, but in a manner quite satisfactory to himself, with a shoulder blade of a Megalosaurus for a bat and a human knuckle-joint for a ball.

Now these severe efforts are, as a rule, in my humble opinion, waste energy, and I have in dealing with this subject no intention of endeavouring to associate the game with the mists and myths of antiquity, for the players of those days are all, to quote our American friends, "back numbers," and I would back any second-class player now-a-days, provided he were armed with a good racket, to

easily defeat any prehistoric man—provided he could be produced—equipped with a scapula; but this is mere foolishness, as the first part—and sometimes a good deal of the rest—of all these books always is, so I must get on to business.

You will probably wonder why I consider it necessary to write a book on Lawn Tennis, especially as nearly every man who ever won a championship has already done the same.

There are lots of reasons why I should do so. First and foremost is the fact that I love the game, and combined with this that I am nearly as fond of writing about it as I am of playing it, and moreover I never won a championship, except—by fortuitous circumstances—of my own club, which was quite the strongest club in antipodean Auckland, and besides this, many players on whose judgment and integrity I would stake my—tennis—reputation have assured me that if I had started much younger, and played a better game, I might easily have been a champion; and I know, without being told, that if I could play it as well as I know it and love it, I might even now be a champion, if it were not for a trifling want of wind, and no want of that sort of condition that tennis players are always glad to be without. If you are not satisfied with these reasons, you should not buy the book, or if you have bought it, you should not read it, unless you think there is more reason in my next reason than

there is in the very conclusive ones which I have already adduced.

Many scores of learned academicians are required to produce one good teacher. The cleverest geologist or chemist will not necessarily be so good a teacher of geology or chemistry as a much inferior man so far as regards scholastic attainments. The first-named may know too much to "come down" to his pupils. Briefly, it seems to me that this is the greatest fault with all books on "Lawn Tennis." The writers are generally champions, and although they always profess to speak so that beginners may understand, in many cases, in my opinion, they fall very far short of that simplicity and detail in explanation which is absolutely necessary for the beginner, and so also in a less degree for the one a little further advanced than the mere beginner. So much that is a matter of the commonest knowledge with them is to the beginner Greek, yet it does not occur to a champion that the very A B C in all its detail must be marked out and shown; and then, to go to the other extreme, there are many important points in connection with the flight of the ball, and the manner of making, or missing, well-known strokes, which are not fully and explicitly dealt with, so that I have come to the conclusion that I shall try to produce a book on lawn tennis which shall be a combination of the wisdom which I have derived

from champions, together with a little which I think I should have, had it been published, but which I trust, now that it has come to me by hard experience, and too late, may be of benefit to future champions—and perhaps some existing ones.

I am writing now of a game, and I trust that if I may at times appear a trifle frivolous, my readers will pardon me for not approaching the subject with that ponderous solemnity which may be seen stalking majestically through my well-known works on "International Law."

The very fine action photographs which illustrate this book were taken by Mr. George W. Beldam, the well-known Middlesex cricketer.

I may here quite appropriately place on record my sincere appreciation of the very great kindness and consideration which I have received from the lawn tennis players of England, the Lawn Tennis Association, and the lawn tennis Press. Whatever may be the result of my work, the writing of "Modern Lawn Tennis," and the associations connected with it, will always be stored in my mind amongst the pleasantest incidents of my life.

When all have been so kind it were better perhaps to "name no names," but I know that no one will feel slighted if I just say, "B. C. Evelegh," with my foot on the chair.

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MODERN LAWN TENNIS

THE COURT

THERE are many different kinds of courts, such as grass, asphalt, cement, concrete, wood, etc., but to my mind there is really only one court which absolutely fits the game, and that is a good grass court. Nearly all others make the ball dirty in a very short time, and once a ball has lost its virgin purity, it has no charm for me. Many, however, are not so particular, and can derive much pleasure from playing with drab balls in a dim light, as is so often done in covered courts. Nothing can surpass a fast, true, grass court, and he who would excel at the game should endeavour to secure his practice on such a one, although when that is not available, a very good game may be played upon the aforesaid substitutes.

HOW TO LAY OUT A GRASS COURT.

Employ some one who knows how to do it. All other ways are delusions and snares for ninety-nine out of every hundred, and probably quite half a

delusion for the hundredth. I have laid out many, and know, that at this game, I will back the professional against the amateur every time. In addition to employing the man who knows how to get the surface for you, get some friend who knows the game to see the court or courts laid out, otherwise there is a fair chance of it being spoiled for you.

He should see to the following points. The full-sized double court is 78 feet by 36 feet. I consider that you should have a clear space on each side line of quite four yards if possible, and at each base line there should certainly be eight yards, and if it can be spared nine or ten. This would make a desirable size for your lawn, say, roughly, 132 feet by 64. If you are laying down several courts, you will not require such breadth, as one borrows from the other, and it would be sufficient then to have between the courts but little more than you would allow on the side line of one court. It is not in my opinion advisable to have your background too far from your base line, as I think one gets a better idea of the length of the court if the background rises somewhere about the distance suggested by me. I have been quite paralysed at times by being put up on an open space, such as the Sydney Cricket Ground, on a perfect court, but with no background, not even a net. If it were practicable, I should like to see the length at which the background rises settled by law.

Any one not acquainted with the game might think I am very generous in the matter of space, considering that a court only 78 feet by 36 feet

is required, but it must be borne in mind that a ball pitching on the base line may bound four or five yards; the player's arm and racket, together with his swing, will account for nearly another three yards. In addition to this, a player should always be able to advance on to the ball, so you will see that nine yards is not so much, especially when you consider the moral effect of the wall or netting, which I can assure you is large, very large, if you merely feel as you are running for a ball that you are going to hit the fence either with your body or the racket.

For all ordinary play, any green hedge makes a good background, but it should always have wire netting before it.

You must endeavour to so lay out your court that the sun shall at all times pass as nearly as may be across it in the same line as the net.

The dimensions of the court have often caused me considerable thought. I have never read anything which went to show how the sizes of the single and double court were arrived at. It seems that they have, like Topsy, "just growed" that way. I have never heard that they were designed with any particular ideas of proportion. We are so accustomed to them that we are inclined to think that they are as near perfect as they may be.

This is not always a good condition of mind. If I thought there was any danger of the game developing into pat ball, and there have been symptoms, I should suggest giving the court its extra eighteen inches each way, which would make the singles court exactly three times the length of

its breadth. I should retain the present service line and base line, and serve as now, but think of the drives we should see. When I see pat ball too far advanced, I shall advocate the extra length.

How to Mark a Court.

This is not the way most people do it, but is my way, and is very simple and easily remembered. Lay down your side line A B of seventy-eight feet wherever you intend to have it, as shown in Fig. 1. You must now remember the simple fact that the figures 3, 4, and 5, or any multiple of them, will give you a right angle, so you put in a peg at C four feet from B. Your assistant stands at B, and you measure out twelve feet of tape, that is the sum of 3, 4, and 5, and give him both ends of the tape to hold at B. You then pass the tape round C, noting that the four feet is correct. Then you take another peg and put it in at the corner D of the triangle made by stretching the tape tight at the nine foot mark. You have now your right angle, and as every line of a tennis court is parallel with another the rest is simple: you have only to measure the same distance apart at each end to get your other lines. Any multiple of the above figures, such as 6, 8, and 10, will give you the same result, and it really is better to take a multiple of 3, 4, and 5, but that is your formula, and is so simple that you cannot forget it. This is really a better method than that usually advocated of taking the measurement at the net, and working from that on the diagonal and side line, as in that case you may

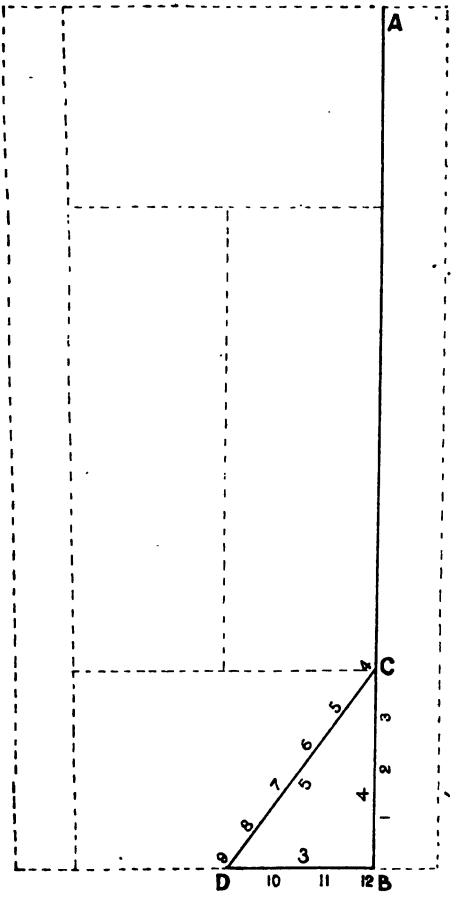

FIGURE I.
Triangle not to scale

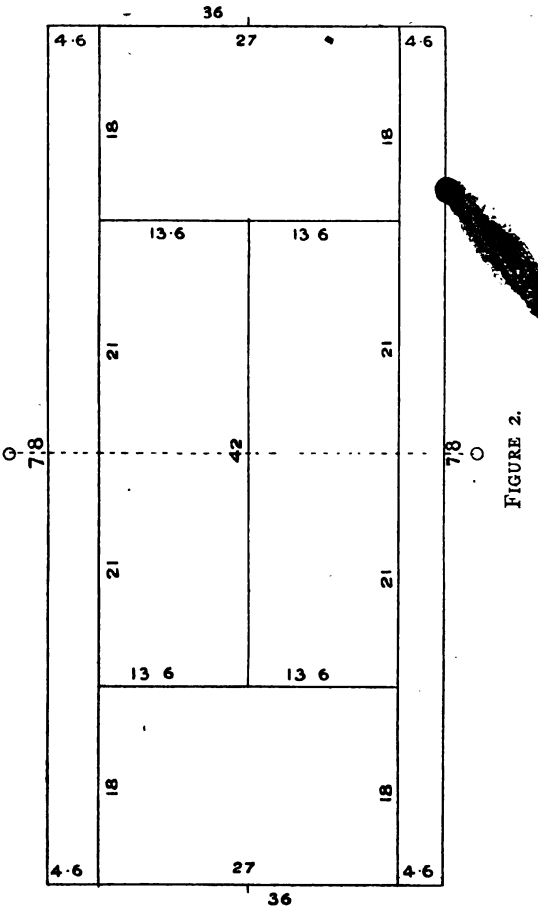
36
4·6
27
4·6
18
18
13·6
13 6
21
21
7'8
42
7'8
21
21
13 6
13 6
18
18
4·6
27
4·6
36

FIGURE 2.

easily, through an error of an inch or two in the angle of the cross-measurement, get your long side line considerably out of line with some fence or hedge running with it, which looks very unsightly, and you will not see this until you have had all your trouble for nothing. With my method that cannot happen, unless your eye is so crooked that you ought not to be marking out a lawn.

The marking of the court and the measurements,

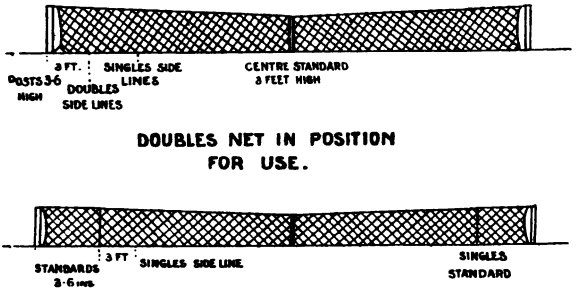

FIGURE 2A.

also elevations of singles and doubles nets, are shown in Figs. 2 and 2A. In all cases where a plan of a court is shown in this book, it is drawn to a scale of one inch to seventeen feet four inches.

The net posts are placed three feet outside the side lines both for the single and double game. As the single game is frequently played over a double net, standards three feet six inches high are put

underneath the net in a position where the posts should be. See Fig 2A.

You will notice in the plan of the double court included in copies of the rules that the side lines of the service court are not produced beyond the service line. This is the correct marking of a double court, but is, in actual practice, rarely seen, for the simple reason that as the court is generally used for both singles and doubles, it is marked as shown in Fig. 2, so that it may be used for both.

IMPLEMENTS

Rackets.—If you are a beginner, your best plan is to try to get some one who knows something about the game to assist you in your choice, but if you cannot do this, my advice to you is to go to some dealer who sells Slazengers' goods, and get what you want.

If you are a man, you cannot do better than get a fourteen and a half ounce E.G.M. or "P. A. Vaile" racket; if a lady, a thirteen and a half ounce will do. You may vary these afterwards when you know more, but they are good enough for any one to start with. These are the weights most generally used in England. Personally unless a player is very strong I should always recommend fourteen ounces for a man and thirteen ounces for a lady. Above these weights there is danger of losing quickness, particularly in volleying. Messrs. Slazenger have, since the E.G.M. racket was designed, produced another, "The Doherty," also a very good racket, but it is hard—for me at least—to see in it any single point of superiority over the E.G.M. The racket which bears my name, and

in which I may be excused for saying, I have no financial interest, has in my opinion some points which make it a more valuable racket than the ordinary E.G.M. It has rubber insertions in the handle, a thinner leather at the end, and the handle is never so thick as to stiffen the player's grip. This racket is built to my specification subsequent to my severe condemnation in *Great Lawn Tennis Players* of the Doherty racket, which in my opinion is structurally imperfect.

There is at present a fad for rackets with very large handles. I should not advise any one, especially a beginner, to buy such a one. In my opinion it stiffens the wrist too much. Choose a racket with a nice easy "grip," or, to put it plainly, get a racket with a handle which you can hold easily and naturally, and chance the rest, if it is an E.G.M. or a Vaile. Perhaps I should not so plainly indicate what make of racket I like best, but if you derive as much pleasure as I have had from using the E.G.M. you will thank me for the recommendation. I may say that even Americans admit they cannot make rackets to equal ours, and the day I left New York, the U.S. Covered Court Champion was passing a small consignment of three for his own use. If I think an article is good, I have no hesitation in saying so, and I do like these rackets, but I maintain that the very large handle is a pernicious fad doomed to speedily go. Since this was written and players have had the opportunity of seeing what Mr. N. E. Brookes can do with his very light thin-handled racket there has been a great decrease in the number of large-

handled rackets. I am pleased to see this, as they tend to spoil the game.

Balls.—As to balls, I can conscientiously say that I have never played with anything I liked better than Slazengers'. There are, however, several other firms who are now producing really fine lawn tennis balls, and for all ordinary purposes the player may please himself as to which ball he uses.

Dress.—Most people use a shoe with a red rubber sole. These are very good if the rubber is good, but personally I always think they are unnecessarily heavy. In matters of tennis dress, I am a little unorthodox. I wear knickerbockers—the best garb for tennis—a soft shirt without any starch, and I roll up my sleeves. My shoes are the lightest rubber-soled shoes I can get made, and they lace on to my foot like a running shoe. You have heard the old racing saying speaking of a horse's plates, or shoes, "Better a stone on his back than an ounce on his heels"; well, there is no doubt it applies equally to a man at tennis. My advice to players is to wear the thinnest and lightest shoe that their feet will allow them to, and above all things, have it tight. It is amazing what this means in starting. See, however, that it does not pinch, and particularly that it is not too short. The shoe I speak of fits like a glove, and is as soft. I am as strongly against heavy shoes as I am against big handles. It is simply a matter of accustoming yourself to the light ones. If you wanted to, you could soon play barefoot in comfort. If you find that you really require extra padding under your feet, I would suggest thick-soled stock-

ings or socks. These you can have made to order. In wet weather you may require leather-soled shoes with steel points, which are small steel spikes fastened into the shoe.

This matter of light shoes is of far more importance than most players think it is. Many English players use for soft grass lawns the same heavy shoes which carry them in comfort on covered courts. The English player is not too quick about the court. I think he anchors himself unnecessarily. I shall give you an instance of what I mean.

I was much interested in the boots—they were boots—that a champion player was wearing. I weighed them. They scaled eighteen ounces each. I weighed mine, those in which I am photographed, and found, that although they are a little heavier, and not so well made as the shoe I generally use, they weighed exactly six ounces each, or one-third of the English boot.

I then worked out this little sum.

English boot	18 ounces
My shoe	6 ounces
English player carries extra weight each step of	12 ounces
Allow five steps per second and he then carries every second extra weight of .	(12 oz. × 5) = 60 ounces
and per minute	60
	16)3,600 ounces

FIGURE 3
AUTHOR'S FORE-HAND GRIP

FIGURE 3A
ANOTHER VIEW OF AUTHOR'S FORE-HAND GRIP

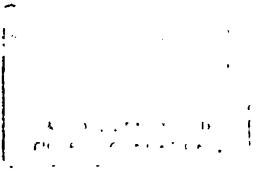

FIGURE 3B

THE LATE MR. H. S. MAHONY'S FORE-HAND GRIP

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or reduced to pounds 225
60

and per hour . . . . . 13,500 pounds
If the match lasts three hours he will carry extra weight in pounds of 3

Reduce this to tons . . . . 2240)40500(18
2240
18100
17920
180

and you will find that the man with the pedal dumb-bells carries 18 tons and 180 pounds more than I do. This is a mere trifle of course to a strong man, but although I am by no means a weakling, I prefer to be without it. I wish it to be understood that I will not guarantee the accuracy of my calculations. I was never good at advanced mathematics, but my little sum will give all of you, English or Colonial, who use pedal dumb-bells instead of shoes, something to think about. Comparatively few players wear boots, but the shoe generally worn is quite twice the weight of mine, and then the player only carries about 9 tons and 90 pounds more than I do, and his shoes don't get lighter as the player gets more exhausted.

Now as to knickerbockers versus trousers. There are two arguments against knickerbockers. The first is unanswerable if you have no calf, or an ugly leg, and the second is that they are hotter than trousers. I have used them in tropical and

sub-tropical climes, and found them no inconvenience, and I always think that you are more compact and freer in them than in trousers. You may work out for yourself the extra energy required for two bags full of air to cleave the atmosphere for three hours, and you will find it means "tons" of energy. I shall not risk my mathematical reputation any further. These may seem trivialities. I have "tried them out," and am satisfied, but don't wish to arbitrarily lay down the law in any way on this point. I regard the light shoe as infinitely the more important matter of the two.

You probably have not, in connection with this question of dress, had occasion to think of the effect of wind friction, but I can assure you, that even in the matter of stringing a racket, a skilful manufacturer weighs carefully the probable results, from this point of view, of introducing two extra strings.

Nets, Posts, etc.—These you may safely leave to your dealer, so long as you see that they come from any reputable maker. Particular makes are not such essentials to the comfort and enjoyment of the game as is the case with the rackets and balls.

Care of Racket.—A tennis racket is, like a bicycle, essentially a fine weather machine—for enjoyment—and for the man who uses his in wet weather, unless forced to, I have no advice. He deserves to buy others. If, however, you have to play in the wet, give your racket a dressing of gut preserver or beef fat before you go out, and directly you come in wipe it carefully, grease it again, and put it away in your press.

THE GRIP OF THE RACKET

THE accompanying illustrations will show my readers what I think the best method of holding the racket. From these it will be seen that I advocate changing the grip for the back hand stroke. Some players do not change, but they are generally eccentricities, and I am speaking now for the mass of normally developed players.

Many players put their thumb up the handle at the back of their racket while playing the back hand stroke. It is undeniable that a very fine back hand shot can be thus played.

I am giving illustrations of an English grip. These were the grips, fore and back hand, of the late Mr. H. S. Mahony, who was accounted, and probably rightly so, one of the best judges of lawn tennis in England.

I must say, however, that I cannot see any good points in the prevalent English grip which those shown by me do not possess. You will notice that the English grips form the fore-arm and racket into a kind of very wide V. Many of our best strokes are played as though the racket and arm to the elbow were one piece which is operated from the elbow. Would you construct a shaft for a golf club, or a

handle for a bat with an angle in it? I think not Why then put the angle in where it is totally unnecessary, and so far as I can see a detriment rather than an advantage. Take the back hand, for instance, and you will see the English grip works the wrist as if on a pivot, and that the back of the forearm is towards the net. Hold your racket and press the head round against your grip, and you will find how powerless you are. Grip it as shown by me with the thumb up the back of, or right round, the handle and the racket braced across the joint of the wrist, and try a volley or two and you will be astonished to find the difference there is in the power. The prevalent hold and big handles are not, I think, calculated to improve volleying.

Some argue that with this hold you can snap back-hand half-volleys much further back. You may be able to. I get very few I cannot convert into volleys by going forward, and I prefer this method to destroying my wrist work by a hold which is quite unsuitable for me. Still this is only my opinion. If I had wanted you to adopt it without question I should not have shown you the other holds. You see them all and have read what I think of them. See which suits you best and take it.

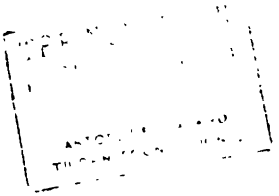
It may be that these grips will not exactly suit you. If you cannot use them, you must get as near to them, or that one which you select as most suitable for you, as you can.

MISS D. K. DOUGLASS

Singles Lady Champion of England

SERVING

PLATE 2



THE GAME

MOST writers who have dealt with this subject profess to address themselves to beginners, but it always seems to me that they jump them rather suddenly into difficult exercises before they have taught them their scales. I intend to give the scales first, and afterwards to try to teach my pupils some of the exercises. For this purpose, the strokes at Lawn Tennis may be conveniently divided into two great classes.

I. Those which are played with a plain face racket, in other words, those in which the racket strikes the ball fairly and truly, and projects it on its course with a minimum of rotation.

II. Those which are played by the racket striking the ball while moving at an angle to the intended line of flight of the ball, and thus projecting it through the air with a considerable amount of rotation on it.

The first are the simple and natural strokes which most beginners would play unless they were shown the others, so I propose to deal first with them.

CLASS I

SERVICE

A GOOD service is of the greatest importance to a tennis player, and it is by no means so hard to acquire as many beginners seem to think. I would strongly impress on those who desire to excel in this respect two points:

1. Don't try to hit your ball down into the service court. Get that idea out of your head. Hit it away from you. It already has downward motion before you hit it, and there is such a thing as gravitation. Hit it hard, and hit it away from you.

2. Make your faults over the service line. Don't put them in the net. I should prefer to see you hitting the base line at first, instead of the net, about a foot from the ground.

This may sound silly to some who are wiser than the writer, but there are glimmerings of reason in these points, as I hope to show later on.

To deliver the service, take your stand behind the base line with your weight on your right foot (I am assuming you are right-handed, otherwise my directions will be reversed); throw the ball up until it is above your right ear, and some six or nine inches beyond reach of your racket. Immediately it gets within reach *of the centre of your racket,* strike it *with the centre of your racket,* so that it is propelled

over the net and falls into the service court diagonally opposite you. At first you will no doubt do this in the nature of a pat and without much swing. When, however, you have acquired a reasonable degree of accuracy in getting the ball over the net, you must endeavour almost simultaneously with the act of throwing the ball up into the air to swing your racket well back behind your head,[1] so that at the moment the ball comes within the striking distance—of the *centre* of your racket, remember—you have worked up a considerable momentum, which is accentuated at the moment of striking the ball by the fact that you are *half way through* the act of transferring the weight of the body from the right leg to the left. This transference of weight is of the utmost importance in this, as in nearly every other stroke in the game, although it is not sufficiently insisted upon by writers. As you acquire greater accuracy, you may, if you desire it, throw the ball higher. Many good players do so, but I must confess that I do not see much to be gained by throwing it very high. Every golfer has had the rule, "Keep your eye on the ball" packed into him *ad nauseam*. It is just as important in this game. I go further and say, "Keep your eye on the bit you intend to hit." Of almost equal importance is the matter of transferring the weight from the one leg to the other at the psychological moment. Every

[1] In my overhead forehand service the racket generally hangs by my right foot. As the ball is thrown up, the racket rises and passes behind my back, the head of it falls and makes a turn like an Indian club, and by this time the ball is within reach, and it strikes it with a lot of momentum. It sounds rather like a theatrical service, but is really easy and natural, and is used by many players.

golfer knows what this means. If his weight be not properly transferred at the critical moment, his drive suffers. I have tried again and again to make young players understand this, yet some of them persist in standing at the base line, and giving the ball half-arm pats without any "body" in them, kind of "put-a-penny-in-the-slot-and-see-Grace-bat" style, that is most aggravating to any one possessed of average intelligence.

The importance of hitting the service at the full extent of your reach will be apparent on a reference

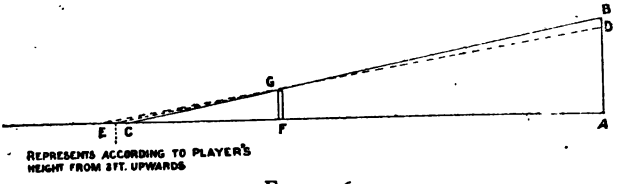


FIGURE 6.

to Fig. 6. A is the server, and when he hits the ball at the full extent of his reach and height AB, flying in a straight line it travels from B to C, and he has all that strip of the service court between C and E available to him for his fastest services, with of course a bit more in the corners on cross-court services. Supposing, however, he is ill-advised enough to persist in his half-arm deliveries, to pass the net and pitch in the service court, his ball in a straight line will travel in the dotted line from D to E, and will land practically on the service line with the same relative margin for cross-court services as in the other service. I am in each case taking practically the extreme to point the importance of my exhortation.

P. A. VAILE

SERVING AMERICAN SERVICE

PLATE 3

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ASTOR, LENOX AND
TILDEN FOUNDATIONS.

As in cricket, so in lawn tennis, a good length is of the utmost importance. Make your faults over the service line, not in the net. The first service of course should be the more severe of the two. It is here that you must try your best. Your second is your reserve, and you generally go to make that sure. So does every one else, and generally it is so sure that it might almost as well be a fault. It should be the endeavour of every rising young player to cultivate a respectable second service.

Always endeavour to place your service so that your opponent has to move to return it, and once you have discovered his weak spot give him every opportunity to practice. Do not unduly exhaust yourself by trying for a desperately hard service. Of course it is a good thing to have up your sleeve, but as a matter of fact a well-placed, medium-paced, good length service is often much better, especially in a single, as it gives one so much more time to get into an attacking position at the net.

In dealing with the service, as in nearly all strokes in lawn tennis, you should stand practically at right angles to the net if the ball be coming straight down court. Speaking generally, your position will be such that your shoulders are parallel with the line of flight of the ball, that is to say that you nearly always stand sideways on as the ball approaches. By the time your stroke is finished, your chest will be facing about where the ball has gone. In the plain-faced over-head service which I have been endeavouring to explain above, you must be careful not to "chop off" your stroke. After hitting the ball, let the racket travel on until it comes down naturally and nearly hits your left knee.

This is technically termed "following through your stroke."

Whatever you do, see that you hit the ball directly it comes within reach of the *centre* of your racket, in other words, always serve so as to get every inch out of your height and reach.

I have spoken about the important rule of keeping your eye on the ball up to the very moment that you strike it, also of the importance of correct transference of weight. To these may be added another which is not sufficiently drilled into beginners, and which, truth to tell, is rarely sufficiently attended to, through not observing the first and most important rule of keeping one's eye on the ball, and that is, "Always hit the ball with the centre of the gut of the racket." This is the business portion. Of course with many of the cut strokes this cannot be done with the same accuracy as when the shot is played with a plain face racket meeting the ball in a direct line of flight, but even in these cut strokes the endeavour always should be to see that the ball hits as near to the centre of the racket as possible.

I have not referred to the under-hand service here, because a plain under-hand service is quite out of date. I shall in another place refer to a useful variety of the under-hand service.

I think the best position to deliver your service from, provided that you intend, as is usual, to follow it up, is from about four or five feet from the centre of the base line. If you are playing from the base line, which I hope you are not, you may vary it as it suits you, but don't wander far from the centre. I am referring now to singles. I shall deal with the position of the server in doubles later on.

THE FORE-HAND STROKE

THIS is the staple of the game of most players, and so should from the first be studied most carefully. Having thoroughly assimilated the four cardinal rules laid down in the chapter on service, and which will bear repeating, namely:

1. Keep your eye on that portion of the ball which you intend to hit,
2. Hit the ball with the centre of your racket,
3. Be transferring your weight from your right leg to your left as you hit the ball,
4. "Follow through" your stroke,

the beginner must next lay himself out to acquire the art of getting the ball back over the net with certainty.

I have heard it said that a famous player was once asked by an old lady what was the most important thing in lawn tennis. His answer was, "To get the ball over the net, madam," and so it is. If I were asked the next, I should say, "To prevent your opponent getting it back," and this will be most readily achieved by acquiring a good length, which is of the first importance; by that I mean, learning to so regulate your strength as to pitch your ball near the base line.

For the fore-hand stroke, you should stand with your left side towards the net, your left foot in front and pointing almost straight at the net (presuming the line of flight of the ball to be parallel with the side lines). Your feet will be about eighteen inches apart, and your right foot, upon which the weight of your body will rest preparatory to the stroke, turned almost at a right angle to the left foot. For position of feet, see Fig. 7.

Many of our best players play their fore-hand shot when the ball is at the top of its bound with a sweeping horizontal stroke, but the beginner will find it easier to let the ball fall until it is within nine or ten inches of the ground before he hits it. He then hits it with his racket, which should be swung from away behind, and on a level at least with his right shoulder, at such an angle as to carry it over the net, and with such force as to allow it to drop into the court beyond, transferring his weight from right to left leg so that he executes the stroke at the time he is, as nearly as can be, half through such act of transferring his weight. This stroke is a pure under-hand shot, and the racket, in making it and following on, makes three parts of a circle in the line of flight of the ball.

You will probably find yourself later on effecting this transference of weight by other means than mere loin rotation. Many, indeed most, players step on to their stroke taking a short step towards the ball with their left foot for the fore-hand drive, and with the right foot for the back-hand drive. Some, when in position for their stroke, but with the weight on the front leg, will throw their weight

H. L. DOHERTY

Singles Champion of the World, and with R. F. Doherty joint holder of the Doubles Championship of the World

SERVING

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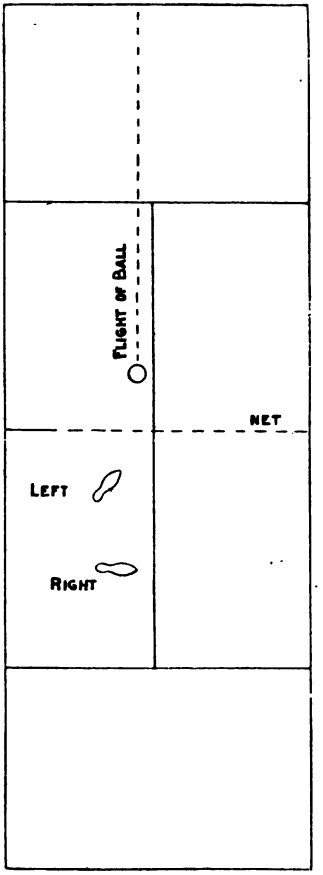

FIGURE 7.
Position of feet for fore-hand stroke.

on to the rear leg as the racket rises in the air, and then, all with an easy, natural swing, return it to the leg which is in front as they play the stroke.

It must be remembered that in this most important matter of transferring the weight, although I say you strike the ball almost half-way through the swing, as a matter of fact you are really past the balance, the scales have turned, and your weight is doing the work.

In making both the fore-hand and back-hand strokes, the weight is placed upon the leg further from the ball preparatory to the act of striking. In nearly every illustration which has hitherto been given of these important positions you will see a man standing slack and flat-footed. Now this is a great mistake, for, although the weight is thrown almost entirely on the rearmost foot, if you are in a correct position you will find that it is concentrated at the ball of the big toe and across in a line therewith. This is the starting point, the point on which your weight swings, or is poised, preparatory to being shifted into a similar position on the other leg, and if you notice carefully you will find that your rear heel is, or should be, scarcely in contact with the ground, and if it is, then it should certainly be bearing little if any of your weight, for that should be thrown on to the ball of the toe, and if one may judge by the feeling, the muscles of the calf, as you stand, with knee slightly bent, and every muscle ready in the best position to go directly the brain telegraphs the word of command. Similarly, do not have the front foot flat on the ground. Use the ball of the big toe to keep in touch with mother earth

until your weight comes forward, and the rearmost foot takes up that function.

The only time when it is permissible, and in some cases practically unavoidable, that you should play with a flat foot is when you are taking low volleys.

After you have acquired a reasonable degree of certainty in returning the ball, your next endeavour should be to make it pitch as near to the base line as you can every time without sending it over.

Do not get it into your head that the ball must just skim over the net. You can get a good length, fair-paced drive quite two feet above the net.

One of the greatest faults of nearly all beginners is getting too close to the ball both in its line of flight and laterally. A beginner should stand well away from the ball both sideways and lengthways. Let it have its bound and then deal with it. It is fatal to be cramped in your shot, and it is much easier to play your stroke advancing than retiring. The first is natural, and you have all chances in your favour, whereas, if you have to play a shot while retreating, the chances are much against you making an effective stroke. Remember you always want the assistance of your body, sometimes certainly in a very slight degree, but even that slight amount cannot be so effectively obtained when you are "in retreat," as it can, for instance, even when you are "poised" for a moment.

The body should be nearly parallel with, or facing, the line of flight of the approaching ball, and not, as laid down by some writers, the direction in which the ball will come.

The racket must be held firmly and naturally. In

this stroke there is practically no wrist work. The left arm should not hang loosely, as is sometimes advised. It should have "muscular intention" and should balance the right, swinging forward and round in front of the body as the racket is swung behind the right shoulder, and coming back as the stroke is made and the right arm thrown forward. Indeed, at the finish of the stroke, it will be found that many players involuntarily extend their left arm behind them, so as to be practically in a line with the right at the finish of the stroke.

Above everything, acquire certainty before you begin to think of pace. I know young fellows who have been playing for years, who have all the physical advantages necessary to make champions, who serve half-arm pats without any body weight, and wildly slash at all and sundry balls, counting the afternoon well spent if a few of these meteoric eccentricities happen to bite the chalk by accident; but this is not tennis. Accuracy in placing and certainty in returning first: then, when the time comes, and the necessity, severity.

P. A. VAILE

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THE BACK-HAND STROKE

It is amazing how many players make this shot out of position. It is of the utmost importance that the feet be in proper position for the stroke. This position is the reverse of that laid down for the fore-hand stroke. The right foot must be advanced and the toe pointing almost, but not quite, parallel to the line of flight of the approaching ball. The left is in the rear about 18 inches, nearly at right angles to the right (see Fig. 8), and bearing your weight. As in the fore-hand stroke, so in this, your body should be sideways to the net as most writers put it, but of course as the ball comes from different directions this is not always right. Your body should be facing, and parallel with, the line of flight of the ball. You must understand this clearly, as it is of importance. You are not to face the direction the ball is coming from. You must stand so that, looking right ahead of you, the ball will pass the line of your vision at a right angle; in other words, you must be "sideways on" to the ball.

One of England's ex-champion players consistently plays his back-hand shot off his left foot. The consequence is he cannot make a clean passing shot down the side-line on that side, as he gets such a large amount of cut on the ball. I have seen his

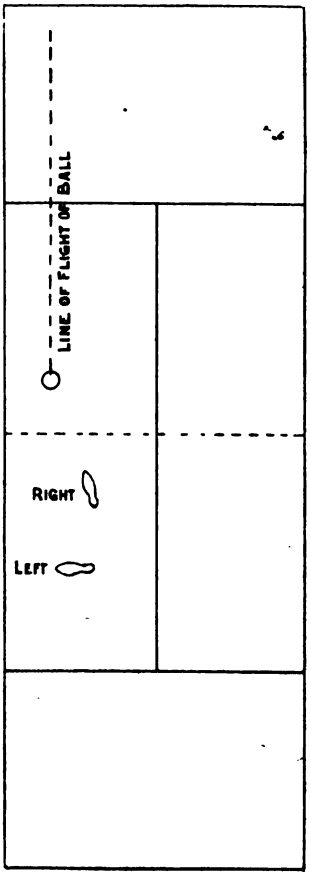


FIGURE 8.
Position of feet for back-hand stroke

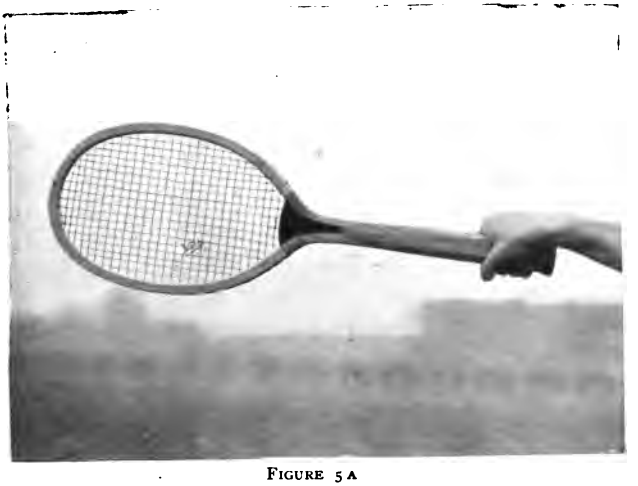


FIGURE 5 A

AUTHOR'S BACK-HAND GRIP, WITH THUMB ROUND HANDLE

REAR VIEW

FIGURE 5 B

BACK-HAND GRIP, WITH THUMB ROUND HANDLE, REAR VIEW

A variation used by the author for low back-hand volleys, and as the grip for serving Reverse over-head service

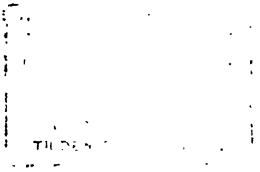
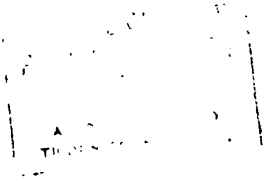


FIGURE 5 C

THE LATE MR. H. S. MAHONY'S BACK-HAND GRIP



return go a foot inside the court and curl a foot outside. This will show the importance of the position of the feet. That man is robbing himself of at least two feet of room at the net.

All the general rules laid down concerning the fore-hand stroke apply with equal force to the back-hand; indeed it is wonderful how similar are the mechanical principles involved in nearly all ball games and the strokes thereat.

The stroke is played by swinging the racket well back until it is within a few inches of the head, and then stepping on to the ball and striking it with an even swing about a foot before it gets quite close to your body. Many players forget the different positions of the face of the racket when held naturally and with the face at right angles to the floor, by, first, the fore-hand grip, and, secondly, the back-hand grip. Take these grips, and examine the angles for yourself, and you will then understand the necessity for hitting your back-hand shot before it gets "in" to you.

I have said, play the ball sideways with your right foot foremost: I cannot impress this too strongly on the beginner. As a matter of fact, many fine strokes are played with remarkable accuracy by some players, when they are playing at a still greater angle, almost with their backs to the net.

Before I temporarily leave the consideration of the two most important ground strokes, I shall risk repetition and remind you of the tennis-player's alphabet.

1. Keep your eye on the ball, and not only on

the ball, *but on that portion of it which you intend to hit.* You do not always hit it in the same place, as will hereafter appear.

2. Hit the ball with the centre of your racket.

3. At the moment of hitting the ball, *be transferring* your weight from your left (in this case) leg to your right.

4. Hold your racket firmly when you are making your stroke. Neglect of this causes the loss of many strokes.

5. Follow through your stroke.

I want you to pay particular attention to the words "be transferring." In driving at golf, as already mentioned, a great deal depends upon the correct transference of the weight of the body at the critical moment, and so it does in tennis. You really hit the ball about half-way through the act of transferring your weight. If this point is thoroughly mastered, and you get your body to do its fair share of the work, you will be astonished to find what pace you can get out of a stroke by correctly "timing" the body on to the ball.

ARCHDALE PALMER

Secretary All England Lawn Tennis Club

FINISH OF SERVICE

PLATE 6

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THE HALF VOLLEY

I AM always amused at the half contemptuous short shrift this beautiful and useful stroke receives. I am inclined to think that it is somewhat on the same lines as the public opinion which caused "volleying" when first introduced to be considered "bad form," and the enterprising player who bounded to the net and killed his opponent's soft returns in very truth a "bounder"—because the other fellows couldn't do it.

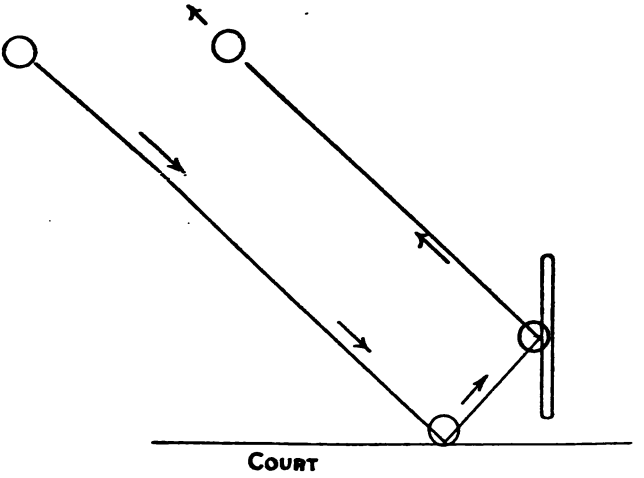
To a great extent this is so with the half volley. It really is not a very difficult stroke, but it has never yet been forcibly borne in upon tennis players why they miss this particular shot so frequently. This is the stroke of all strokes which is played by most players nearly blindfold. Here again let me shout in stentorian tones, "Keep your eye on the ball." Do we miss a drop-kick? Have we any objection to a half volley on a good pitch? No, because we look at these, and we don't look at the half volleys on the lawn tennis court. There is no stroke which allows so many balls to pass "clean through the racket." This, accompanied by the fact that the stroke is nearly always used merely as a defensive one, has, I think, invested it with terrors it should not possess. A good player should be able and willing to take this stroke on as an offensive one, if he sees that it will give him a better opening than waiting to play it later. If you doubt my conten-

tion, get a friend and practise the stroke, and you will be astonished what you can do with it if you observe the cardinal rule of the game, which applies with greater force to this stroke, because it is so flagrantly neglected in connection with it.

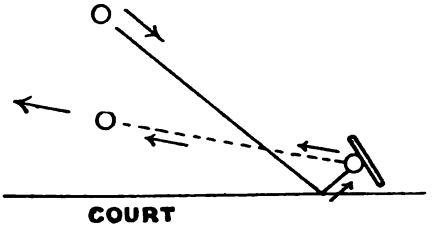
The stroke is frequently played without any follow through at all, and consists of meeting the ball with the face of the racket almost immediately it has left the ground and before it has had time to travel more than a matter of inches. It is a most useful shot, and can, and has to be, played in quite a variety of positions. It is amazing what balls a good half volleyer can return. I have seen a ball pass a player on his back-hand, apparently a hopeless case for him, when, with a swift turn, his back to the net, and a wristy half volley, he has turned what looked like a certain loss to him into a good attacking position.

Few players realise the mechanical principles involved in half-volleying. You will see most of them meet the ball with the face of the racket inclining too much backwards and away from the net. They apparently forget that the ball is already striving hard, with the initial force of its bound, to rise, and that the angle of the face of the racket must be such as to counteract this tendency. A glance at Fig. 9 will explain my remarks quite clearly. This of course refers to all balls of and above medium pace. If the ball is so slow that it requires lifting, it may be better if you cannot get to it in time to volley to let it bound.

It is distinctly a stroke which every player should have at his command, and much more perfectly developed than it is at present.



Vertical rigidly-held racket and natural rebound.



Racket forwardly inclined to correct upward tendency. Dotted line shows corrected rebound.

FIGURE 9.

N.B.—In most of the figures the head of the racket only has been shown, because to produce the handle of racket or body of the player would complicate the figure; and in no case are balls, rackets, or anything, except the plans of the courts, drawn to scale.

THE VOLLEY

THE volley is a stroke played before the ball has struck the ground. It is indispensable, is easily acquired if one has a fairly good eye, and should be assiduously practised, for half the charm of lawn tennis lies in good volleying. When standing in position for a volley at the net, the feet are kept about eighteen inches apart, the toes turned outwards, the knees slightly bent, and the head and shoulders thrown forward so that the weight of the body is all forward. You are practically almost on the balance, and you hold your racket horizontally across your body supported at the splice by your left hand.

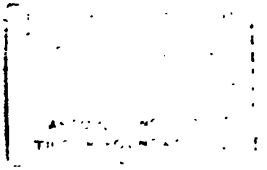
For all volleys, the same general principles as are laid down for striking the ball in service, which of course is a volley, apply, but there are many volleys which come to you at the net, which are so fast that they are played almost by the wrist or arm, with what little body weight you are enabled to put into them by mere "loin rotation," which means the half swing of the body on the hips, or by falling over your balance on to the ball, to coin an expression, for the shot will be played almost before you have started your short step on to the ball.

For all low volleying, get your eye as much in a

P. A. VAILE

FORE-HAND DRIVE FROM THE BASELINE

PLATE 7



line with the ball as you can; in other words, crouch to them, so low that you can take nearly everything with the head of the racket above the wrist. This latter point is strongly and ably shown and dealt with in Messrs. Dohertys' interesting treatise on the game, and is of great importance, particularly in low volleys at the net, and, as they point out—but this I consider a much more doubtful point—in low volleys at and about the service line. Certainly, however, if execution counts for anything, any one who has seen the very fine low volleying of the brothers will deem the matter worthy of consideration. At the same time there is no mechanical reason why these volleys cannot be played just as well with the under-hand stroke. I am inclined to consider that it is only a matter of practice, and that they would prove just as effective as when played in the manner suggested by Messrs. Doherty, who, I am rather disappointed to note, give no reason whatever in favour of the practice. My idea of always as much as possible keeping the eye in a line with the flight of the ball when taking low volleys hardly sufficiently applies here—although in a modified degree it does—and in the absence of any explanation I must say that I fail to see any reason why, with practice, a good low volley cannot be developed with the head of the racket below the wrist. It is certainly a far more natural shot, and can with practice be very accurately treated.

I have very strong opinions on the volleying question. Some people say they are extreme, but I shall give them to you, for they are valuable.

Axiom I. Never let the ball hit the ground when

you can play it with a reasonable chance of a good stroke on the volley.

Axiom II. Play every volley possible overhead, or at least with the head of the racket above the wrist. This refers of course to all balls above the net, no matter however little. With dropping balls and low volleys generally, you have my ideas and Messrs. Dohertys'; try them both and take that which suits you best.

The immense importance of volleying is that you save much time and so are more likely to get your opponent out of position, or secure an opening to finish the rest at the net by a good volley.

Most players volley much better when close up to the net than from the three-quarter court. It is, I think, largely a matter of moral courage. Consider the splendidly placed volleys you serve to your opponent whenever it is your "deal." Why should you not volley better from the three-quarter court than you do? for you are nearer the net, and have about four times the space at least—for the net shuts up most of the service court—that you have when serving from the base line.

I know that I shall be told that in the service you have the chance of putting up your own ball and so on, but it must be remembered that the service is the volley—a straight-dropping ball—that requires most accurate timing, and that there is no other volley played which must be directed into so circumscribed a portion of the court—a mere strip for fast services.

On the other hand, in ordinary volleys nearly the whole of the court is open to one and—here is the

advantage—generally the ball is approaching the player, although it may be dropping fast, and is therefore the easier to time. I am certain that most of the bad volleying behind the service line is lack of moral courage and of confidence in the law of gravitation. Players always, or nearly so, want to assist too much the already acquired downward impetus of the ball, and lose sight of the fact that even after the impact of their racket has temporarily checked the ball's downward flight, this impetus continues to assert itself.

I would recommend young players to try this plan. Get a friend to throw up lobs. Stand in the centre of the three-quarter court and volley them back to the base line. Note carefully how high they pass above the net, and thus you will be able to eliminate from your mind to a great extent the bugbear of the net, when you are making your stroke. If I were starting a player who was really keen on the game, I am not sure that I would not make him learn his smashing without having any net on the court, or possibly over a tape four feet six inches high. I should know from where the ball pitched whether it was good or not, and he would learn to think of his angle, and not, as we all do, of the net, and the man at it, and it stands to reason that this thought influences our strokes most materially. As a matter of fact, many of us volley at—yes at—the net, or just to clear it. Is it any wonder we find it?

You must remember also that good length is as important in a volley which you cannot kill by pace or placing as it is in any other stroke. Above everything, do not get into the habit of patting your

volleys. Always get a bit of pace on them if you can, and if you get a suitable chance, unless you can be certain to win by placing, "put it out of sight" at once.

Most writers will tell you that for volleying at the net when you see a fore-hand volley "looming up," you are to draw your right leg back and put your weight on it, turning your body slightly sideways, and at the moment of striking make a slight step forward with the left foot, thus carrying out the general theory of all strokes. The theory is perfectly good when you have time for it, which you very often haven't.

You must hold your racket firmly for the volley and meet the ball smartly with it. Do not leave the ball to attack the racket. The racket must commit the assault, otherwise there will be trouble. In only about one case may you allow the ball to do the work, and that is a shot seldom seen now. When standing right at the net, you may simply hold your racket stiffly in front of the ball, and by drawing it smartly back at the moment of the impact drop the ball almost dead over the net, but this stroke can be played practically as well, and possibly with more certainty by a cut volley, which I shall deal with later on.

A. W. GORE

Singles Champion of Englana, 1901

FORE-HAND DRIVE

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THE LOB VOLLEY

THE lob volley is one of the rarest strokes one sees played, but its usefulness cannot be questioned. It consists of meeting the ball with an under-hand stroke before it has touched the ground and tossing it into the air in the endeavour to get over your opponent's head. You must endeavour particularly in this shot to strike the ball truly in the centre of the racket, which must be gripped firmly, and do not be afraid to toss it well up. If you try to play a low lob volley, you run great risk of giving your opponent an easy kill. It lends itself nicely to a back-hand shot with plenty of cut. In any case you must be careful in making this shot to let the ball, so to speak, bounce on the racket; in other words, the face of the racket must be very nearly horizontal, otherwise you will put the return into your opponent's hands. This volley, like all others, must be played: you must not leave the racket to do it.

THE FORE-HAND OVER-HEAD VOLLEY

NEARLY all writers deal with this under the name of "The Smash," but as it is not always a smash, but quite as often merely an ordinary over-head volley, I prefer to treat of it under the above heading.

This volley is to all intents and purposes similar to the service except that you are not fixed for the stroke before it goes up, and do not provide the material for your shot. Its general principles are practically identical, with the exception that you may, and often do, step on to your stroke, and when you make it severe enough it is a "smash." When practising smashing, it will be of the utmost benefit to the aspirant for tennis honours to find out, from the different points of the court, the varying heights at which his ball can pass over the net and yet land in the court. If you are earnest about your game, I would even suggest to you to strain a tape across at the point which cuts the line of flight of your ball at the net when smashed from the middle of the three-quarter court to the base line. Then practise at this. It will not be waste time.

In running back to bring off an over-head volley, the player should not merely try to reach the ball.

It should be his aim to over-run it so as to be able to pull himself together, to at least poise himself, and come at the ball on the general principles laid down for service. He should, while waiting, have his weight well back on his right leg, his right shoulder low, and then at the critical moment put his body into his stroke.

Let him also get rid of the idea of hitting the ball down. If he finds this advice makes him drive it over the base line, which he won't, he can modify his performance.

The back-hand over-head volley is a stroke you only take on when you are forced to, and does not call for much comment. Reverse the instructions for the fore-hand shot, and practice will do the rest.

You will get an excellent idea how to play a back-hand smash by studying the photograph of the late Mr. H. S. Mahony executing that stroke.

He, in common with many others, always played his smash with his thumb up the back of his handle, and some writers lay this down as an essential. With the prevalent English grip it possibly is, but personally I can get quite as good, if not better, results from the grip with thumb round handle, as the bracing which, in the English grip, is almost required of the thumb, is supplied by the bearing of the weight of impact across the joint of the wrist, and I naturally, of course, get a much firmer grip with the thumb helping to encircle the handle instead of lying up its back.

I want you to take particular notice of the frontispiece, which shows me in the act of smashing a ball.

This, by great luck, shows nearly all the most

important points in smashing, which may be seen on reference to the picture.

1. Position of feet showing weight on the ball of big toe in each foot as it is being transferred.

2. Position of right leg, bent at knee, ready to propel body forward.

3. Weight of body mainly on right leg.

4. Head thrown back.

5. Right shoulder well drooped.

6. Balance by extended left arm with lightly-clenched hand.

7. An evident intention to make the stroke an aggressive one.

The last is certainly not the least here, and should in smashing be the dominant idea. Determination and confidence are essentials to good smashing, and good smashing is an essential to a really good game, and once you know how to do it, a little practice makes it so easy and pleasant—for you. All the above are strong points in smashing, and if you put them into practice you will smash quite well.

THE LOB

THIS stroke as the staple of one's game is contemptible. In its place it is a fine scientific shot, requiring far more skill, nerve, and delicacy of touch to play well than many a more showy stroke.

It is a defensive shot, generally played to give you time or position, or both, and the beauty of a good lob is that the best man living must chase it and thus be dislodged from the net, or lose the ace.

The Americans have a fad for high lobs. Theoretically, of course, every inch more than sufficient to clear your opponent's racket is waste energy, and gives more time for your opponent to get back to it and reply, but I would not advise cutting it too fine. It is hard to tell how high a man can jump, also you must allow a little margin for your possible want of accuracy. So long as you are tossing accurately enough to pass your opponent there can be little advantage in going in for high lobs, which some writers put into a special class. As a matter of fact, they are exactly the same gentlemen as those low fellows who just skim your rackets. The latter are of course faster, and therefore, when they come off, better. If you are tossing your lobs beyond the base line, then I would say to you, put a bit of your strength into height. It will sometimes correct your

length, and in any case a dead-dropping ball is always harder to volley than one approaching you. You must not try a low lob unless your opponent is well in and threatening you.

As in a lob volley, this stroke must be played so that the racket comes well underneath the ball, so as to lift it clear of your opponent at the net. I do not suppose that it has occurred to many players to divide the distance of their lob. A plain lob will, after it has ceased to ascend, descend in very much the same curve as that in which it has ascended. It always seems to me that the object of a player in lobbing should be to divide his distance, if I may so express it, and to play for that point where he intends the ball to cease rising. I have tried this, and I believe it leads to increased accuracy in lobbing.

In my next chapter on the lob, reference will be made to "cut lobs." It would certainly in theory be wrong to "divide the distance" for these, as they must fall straighter than a plain lob. About two-thirds of the distance to the point you want should do for a cut lob.

Always lob to your opponent's back-hand for preference, and you will find a low lob down the side line a wonderful passing shot at times. You see your opponent has to get right under it before he can reach it. This is a much neglected and very valuable shot.

THE FLIGHT OF THE BALL

It has always been a matter of surprise to me that tennis writers have never devoted any consideration to this most interesting subject. When a tennis ball is struck by the racket, with the face of the racket at right angles to the intended line of flight of the ball and the racket following through truly, that ball departs on its journey to the point to which it was hit, with a minimum of rotation, and only approaches the earth by gradual descent as called upon by the immutable laws of nature, and on alighting it immediately bounds up again from the ground at almost the same angle at that at which it hit it.

On the other hand there are a great number of strokes played in tennis in which the ball is not struck fairly. The racket passes obliquely across the intended line of flight of the ball, and in doing so, the face of it comes into violent contact with the ball, "gripping," or entering into frictional engagement with, the cover of it, and, so to speak, "brushing" it round as it leaves the face of the racket. There are many ways of doing this, but there are, I think, four primary rotary motions which may be imparted to the tennis ball, the North, South, East and West of rotation, and all others, it seems to me, are a combination of some two, or a modification of some one, of these. The principal strokes which

produce these motions, and the results of these strokes are as follows:—

I. There is the over-head fore-hand cut service, which imparts to the ball horizontal rotation from right to left. The same rotation is imparted by the very rare and practically obsolete under-hand back-hand service.

II. There is the reverse over-head service, which imparts horizontal rotation from left to right. The ordinary fore-under-hand cut service produces the same rotation.

III. There is the drive with upward lift, which imparts vertical forwardly rotating motion to the ball.

IV. There is the chop, which imparts vertical backwardly rotating motion to the ball.

I am, of course, taking the direction of the rotation from the time and point of contact of the ball with the racket.

Now all these strokes and many combinations of them produce quite distinct flights, a matter which must be carefully studied and mastered by him who would excel beyond ordinary men.

I shall later on deal specifically with each stroke, and shall endeavour to interweave in each chapter such information on the flight of the ball, and its conduct on landing, as in each case I may deem desirable.

I may mention here that in the Messrs. Dohertys' recent work on Lawn Tennis, in dealing with the American services, which are exaggerations of our reverse over-head service, or a combination of some two, or a modification of some one, of the four primary rotary motions, the authors say that "the ball travels on the racket itself from the wood at one

H. L. DOHERTY

FINISH OF FORE-HAND DRIVE

PLATE 9

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side right to the wood at the other side." This, I have little hesitation in saying, is quite inaccurate, for it is, in all services, the almost momentary impact of the racket upon the ball which imparts to the latter its rotation, and in every effective service or stroke, it follows as a matter of almost elementary theory that you should strike the ball with, or as near as possible to, the centre of the racket. I mention this matter here as it is of the utmost importance that players thoroughly grasp the correct theory of producing the rotation of the ball. Unless this be done the result will be disastrous, and if Messrs. Doherty's statement is correct, it opens up a wide field for new and startling theories.

Second only in importance, if indeed, it is second, to the oft and properly repeated charge impressed upon players by Messrs. Doherty, "Keep your eye on the ball," is "Hit the ball with the centre of your racket," but if the Americans can get such good results by hitting the ball with the short dead strings at the side of the racket, why then should we not use them for our forehand service, if not indeed for general play where rotation of the ball is desired? I am always trying to learn, always looking for that which is good and new, or interesting, and which tends to improve the game, but I must confess that I cannot here see anything to tempt me to further research or experiment.

One might also be pardoned for asking, if, after the moment of impact at the one side of the racket, the ball remains on the racket until its gets "right to the wood at the other side," what then induces it to depart on its mission in life before the wood hits it and destroys the usefulness of the stroke?

CLASS II

SERVICE

ALL the general rules laid down for the simple service and strokes apply with equal force to the more advanced methods of service and striking the ball, which I am now about to deal with, with this exception, that as the stroke is a glancing blow it stands to reason that your "follow through"—if it may be so called—is not in a line with the flight of the ball.

Taking them in the order mentioned, I have to deal with the fore-hand over-head cut service. This is a very useful variation. Fig. 10 will show the manner in which the ball is struck to produce the rotation. The ball is thrown up in the usual way (although afterwards when you become more expert and want to accentuate the spin, you throw it up further away from you at the same elevation, and in a line with your right shoulder a little in front), and struck a glancing blow, as shown in the Fig. 10, which is a plan, that is, you are looking down from above the court on top of the racket.

This cut imparts a considerable rotation from right to left, A to B, which causes the ball to curl in the air from right to left, and then when it strikes the

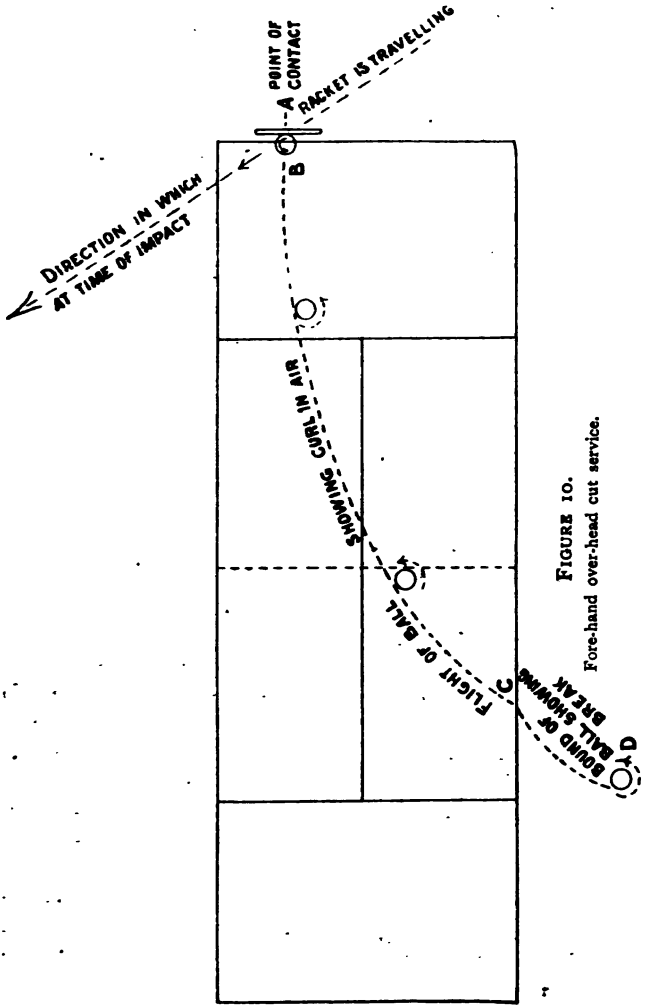

FIGURE 10.
Fore-hand over-head cut service.

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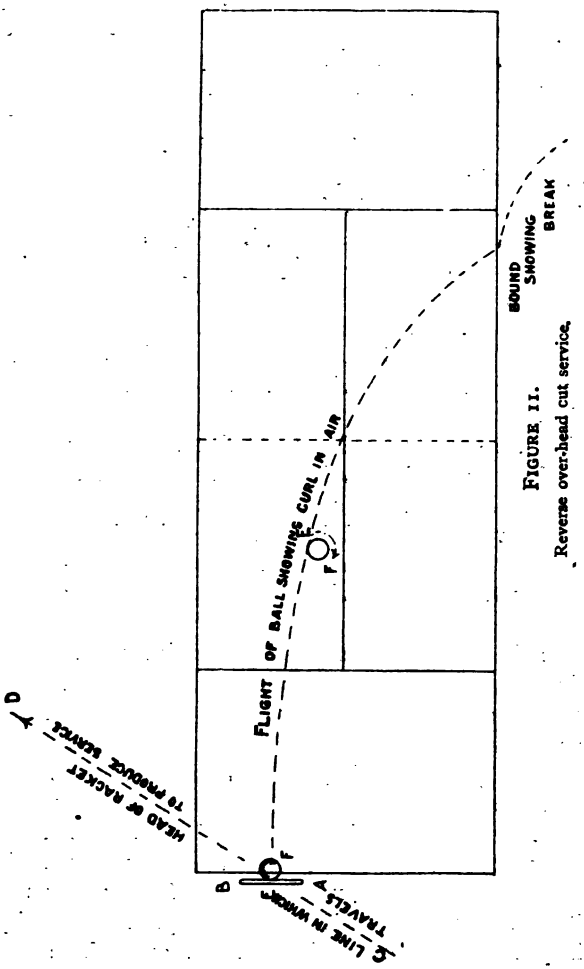

FIGURE 11.
Reverse over-head cut service.

same time as it is crossing the ball, by almost halving the quarter of the circle contained between the lines of motion of the racket which produce the two primary motions above referred to.

This service sometimes gets up more than a pure reverse and its bound is most peculiar at times.

Practically the same rotation as that on an ordinary reverse service is imparted by the fore-hand under-hand cut service, which is by no means a despicable change, especially when you are serving against a troublesome sun.

The back-hand under-hand cut service is almost obsolete, so I shall not waste time referring to it. Sometimes a man worries a lady in a mixed double with it.

The fore-under-hand cut service is produced by dropping the ball, and bringing the racket smartly across it with that "brushing" motion (I cannot find a better word) from right to left, which imparts to it a horizontal rotation from left to right causing it to break from left to right. I am speaking as the server now. See Fig. 12.

The Americans have another service which they deliver by throwing the ball up well over the left shoulder or beyond. They then bend themselves over towards the left and strike the ball with a glancing upward stroke, which imparts vertical forwardly rotating action with sometimes a slight admixture of right to left horizontal spin. The result is a most peculiar bound which takes you a little while to analyse. They almost hit from under the ball. This service, well executed, produces really —if you can understand what I mean—the same

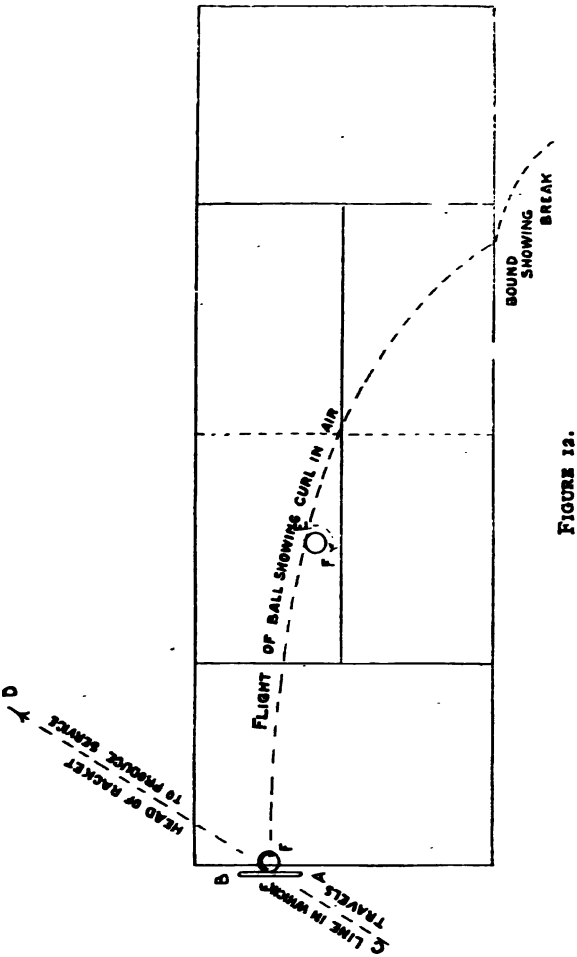

FIGURE 12.
Under-hand fore-hand cut service.

rotation and flight as a lifting drive, only it proceeds through the air as though the drive were lying over at an angle of say 45 degrees. The ball curves in the air to the right of the striker out. Generally speaking, it would break that way. It does not: it breaks to his left. I shall try to show you the action in Fig. 13, although you must understand that the ball is rotating through the air at, say, an angle of 45 degrees to the ground.

This is a most difficult stroke to explain verbally, but as it is rather a rare service I must try. In Fig. 16 I have shown the peculiar action of the flight of the lifting drive. Now you must look at Fig. 14 and think that you are standing right behind the stand A, which is on your base line, and that you are facing down the court towards the other base line. If you hit the ball B which revolves on the axis C D with the stroke for the lifting drive, you will make it revolve from E to F, that is with vertical forwardly rotating action. Consider the stand hinged at A. Push it down to an angle of 45 degrees as shown by the dotted stand. The ball has still the rotation of the lift in a fore-hand drive, but is rotating at an angle of 45 degrees to the ground instead of vertically. This accounts naturally for its peculiar bound which at first glance might seem unnatural. Now put your American G under the ball to show his service. Stop it revolving. See, he is going to hit upwards, and his racket will pass across the ball as shown by the curve H I. It is really an over-head lifting volley. It is somewhat hard to explain, but I think you will be able to get it. It is lift or forward

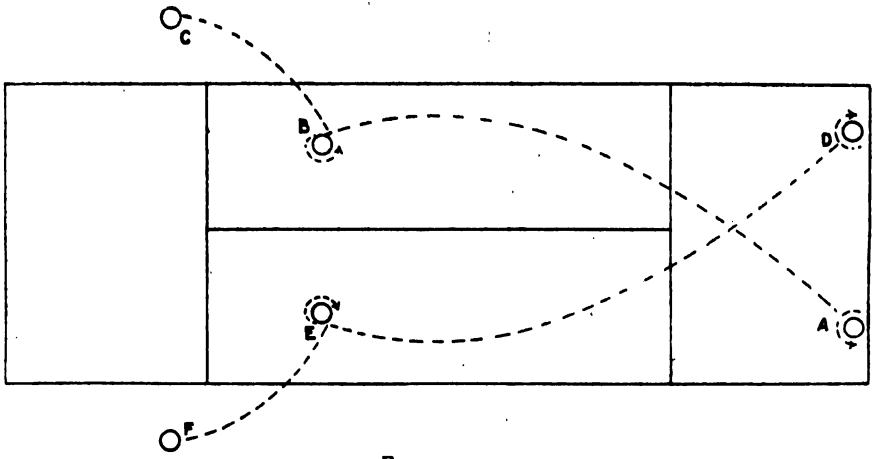

FIGURE 13.

A, B, C. Flight and bound of "American" service.
D, E, F. Flight and bound of similar service delivered with racket swung from right to left as by K, Figure 14, H, I.
The ball is in each case revolving and proceeding at an angle of approximately forty-five degrees to the surface of the court.

rotatory motion produced by an over-head shot instead of an under-hand one.

It is the lifting drive played as a volley over-head. Let it not be forgotten that this service may also be served by throwing the ball up on the fore-hand side, and hitting it upwards in a similar manner. I fancy this will prove a novelty for most players, and I have not seen it much used in America, but it is nearly as valuable as the other. See K, Fig. 14. The peculiarity of this latter service is that you almost face the net to deliver it. Some further information about the American service will be found in the appendices.

In addition to this, the ball may be served with a "chop" or downward cut which imparts vertical backwardly rotating spin to it, and causes it to keep very close to the ground after it has struck. A command of these deliveries gives one a great advantage in serving, for it enables him to vary his pace, place, break, and length in a most puzzling manner, and it must be remembered that ability to do this is of the highest importance. The service of many of our leading players is much too stereotyped. Although the cut generally detracts somewhat from the pace and length of a service, it gives, I think, greater command of the ball and accuracy in placing, and with some of them gives you more time to follow up; moreover, the work on the ball, especially if your opponent attempts to play it too soon, will render his return less accurate than off a plain ball. In returning these services they must be distinctly hit; you must not let them hit the racket when the work on them is proceeding

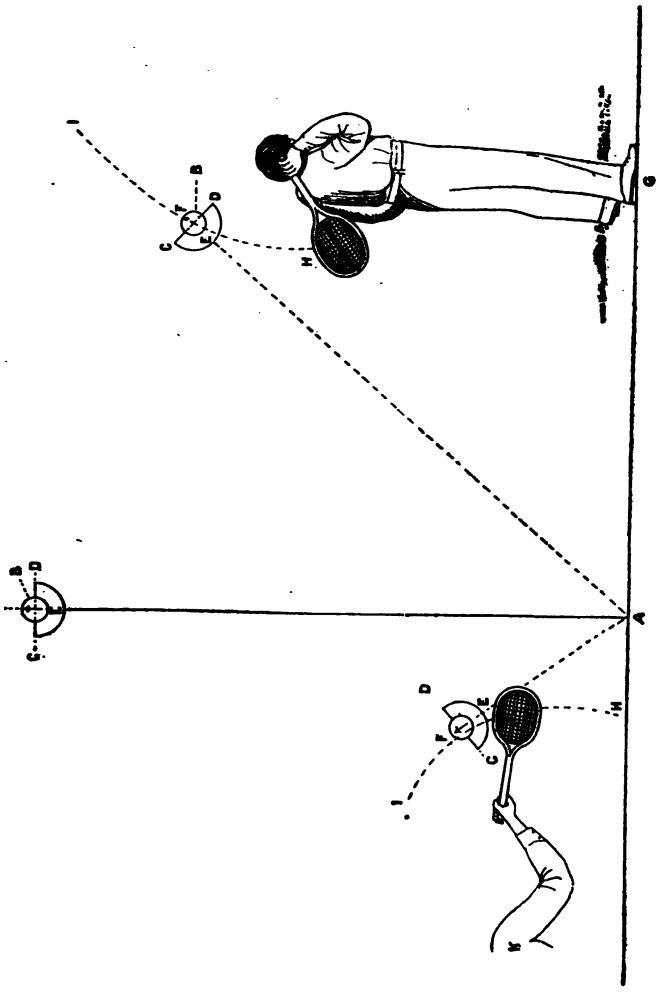

FIGURE 14.
The "American" service.

vigorously. If you do, you will find the ball gripping your racket and curling off. You must do the striking.

I do not wish you to run away with the idea that all these rotatory motions should be inflicted upon the ball without provocation. As a matter of fact I consider, that as in billiards, so in tennis, "side" —to use the billiard term—should only be imparted to the ball when the stroke calls for it, and you have a definite object in so doing. I know several very fine players who use a plain face racket most of the time, but notwithstanding this fact, the importance of a proper understanding and command of the strokes which produce rotation cannot be over-estimated.

THE FORE-HAND DRIVE

No. III. I have called the drive with upward lift, which imparts vertical forwardly rotating spin to the ball. This action which produces the spin, and the spin itself, have been called a variety of names. The spin has been called "drop," "top," "roll," "rib," "lift," "loft," "up rib," "up lift," and so on in different parts of the world. It might, I think, quite accurately be called "upper cut," but I shall herein call it "lift."

In this stroke, the racket AB passes forwardly and upwardly in an oblique direction across the intended line of flight of the ball, as shown in Fig. 15, brushing violently against the ball as it passes at G. It is played to a great extent as a kind of half-arm shot, that is to say, that the arm above the elbow does not enter into the shot so much as the forearm, which brings the racket up with a sharp brushing motion across the ball and on upwards and forwards.

It will be seen at a glance that immediately the racket hits the ball at G, it gets a grip on it, and sends it away rotating from G to E, that is, forwardly and downwardly.

This stroke is unquestionably the most valuable ground stroke in modern tennis, and a correct appreciation of its manifold merits is of the greatest importance to the would-be champion, or indeed to

FIGURE 15.
Fore-hand drive with lift.

any one who intends to enjoy the game. The peculiarity of the flight of this particular shot is, that while the initial velocity of the stroke is on, the ball springs away rapidly, and in many cases you would count that it was going easily out of the court, when suddenly, the initial force being spent, the downward rotation asserts itself, and it dives like a shot bird for the base line, and is converted into a fine length ball that takes you by surprise. I give in Fig. 16 a diagram of the flight and bound of this ball.

The Americans get a tremendous amount of lift on their strokes, and many a time have I been deceived into considering a ball well out of court and letting it go, only to see the lift assert itself and the ball pounce down in the court by the base line. This flight is most deceptive, even to those who are

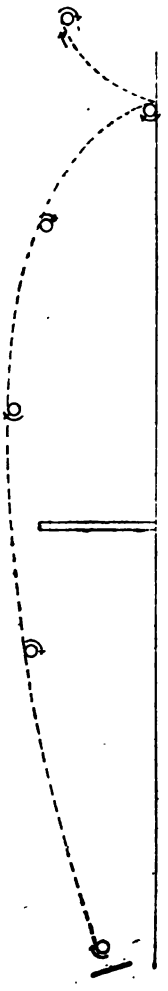

FIGURE 16.

Fore-hand drive with lift, showing rotation of ball, sudden descent at end of drive, and bound with continued influence of rotation.

accustomed to it, and unless you train yourself to watch the way the ball is struck by the racket, and to consider what it is doing in the air as it comes to you—a point of the utmost importance, yet hitherto scarcely treated of—you will be deceived as I have been, and as I have seen the Americans—although they are accustomed to the stroke—time and again.

Another great virtue in this shot is, that by reason of its quick dropping habit, it is a fine passing shot. Well played, it comes over the net and dives for the volleyer's feet, when he is expecting quite another foot of length, and then it is a terribly awkward ball to make an effective return from. Still another and by no means unimportant virtue that it possesses, is that it is a natural climber. The moment it hits the net it grips it, and starts climbing for all it is worth, and I have seen balls with lots of lift climbing inches. You will recognise in a moment from Fig. 17 that this is so. This faculty is not possessed in a similar degree by any other ball, and when a man has his day of "hitting the duck," it is not to be despised. On the other hand, a back cut ball proceeds to climb down directly it grips the net as shown in Fig. 18.

According to all laws of motion, one would expect this ball from its rotation to grip the ground and spring suddenly and sharply forward with much accentuated pace, but this is not usually so. The sudden descent which it makes when the initial force of the drive is spent, allows it to get up and be played without difficulty except occasionally when you get a very hot one. The obvious reply is a

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FINISH OF FORE-HAND DRIVE PLAYED WHILE RUNNING

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When the rotation is checked by the net at C, the ball endeavours to continue rotating, and is naturally forced upwards, even as a billiard ball takes its running side from the cushion.

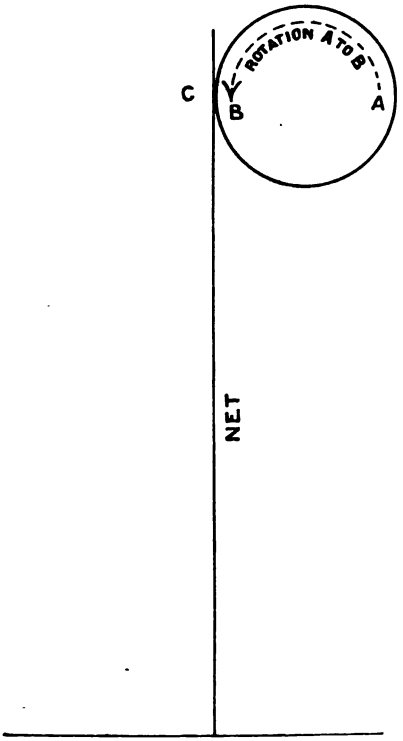

FIGURE 17.
Showing how lift climbs up the net.

similar drive (for that grips and checks the rotatory action which is already on the ball), or a plain face return. If however you should intend to "cut" or

When the rotation is checked by the net at C, the ball endeavours to continue rotating, and is naturally forced downwards, even as a billiard ball takes its check side from the cushion.

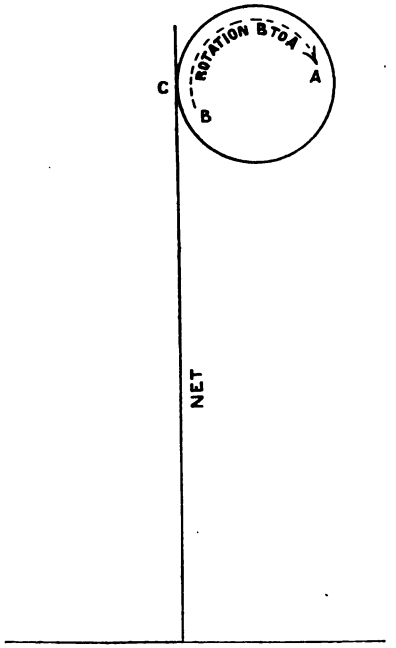

FIGURE 18.

Showing how cut or chop tries to roll down the net.

"chop" it, you must remember that it has already on it that spin which you intend to produce, and that the effect of your shot will be to accentuate such spin, and, if you play the ball at an ordinary elevation, to make the return fly higher than you intended. In any case where you are accentuating

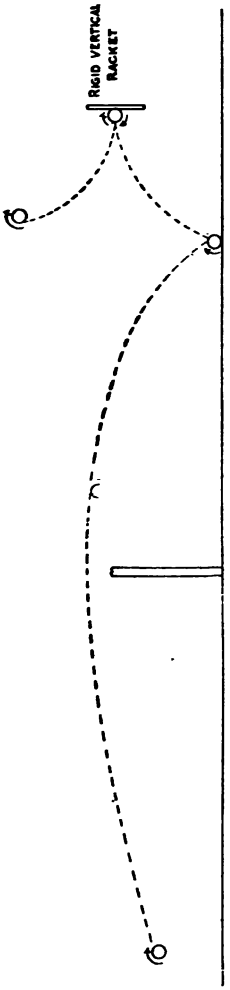

FIGURE 19.
Showing natural tendencies of drive with lift.

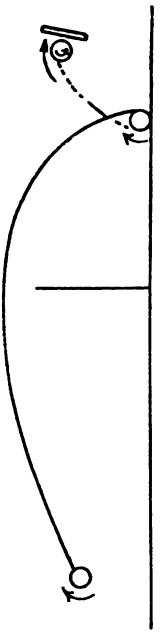

FIGURE 20.
Lift to lift checks rotation. Initial rotation shown by arrow outside ball. Rotation after stroke by arrow inside.

the rotation this must be borne in mind. Fig. 19 explains this.

You may remember that in this matter of rotation, it is a question of "Like answers like," that is, a fore-hand drive meets and checks fore-hand vertical rotation (see Fig. 20) and likewise a back or downward cut stops the backward rotatory action on a similar ball, and for this reason it always seems to me that when replying in this manner to these shots, they may perhaps be treated more vigorously than if you are playing them with a plain face, for there is always the upward striving of the front of the ball (which infallibly takes place the moment the ball grips your racket) for you to "come and go on" and to overcome by your lifting drive; and *vice versa* in a chopped ball.

The prime merit of the lifting drive lies in the fact that by means of it you are enabled to hit the ball much harder, and yet keep it within the court, than you can do with a plain face racket. Also with a good command of this stroke you can keep a fine length, and generally, owing to the sudden curvature of its flight at the end—except in very fast balls, when it is not so apparent—it has a good bound and so keeps your opponent well back.

The theory of this stroke, and indeed the practice, when once the theory is thoroughly grasped, are so simple and yet valuable, that it is a wonder that more stress has not been laid upon them. I have seen youths vainly cleaving the air with frantic energy, who, when I have asked them for what they strove, were at a loss to explain.

I shall give here a diagram which shows very

clearly the principle (Fig. 21), and shall suggest a means whereby the practice may be acquired. If you cannot get a friend to practise shots with you

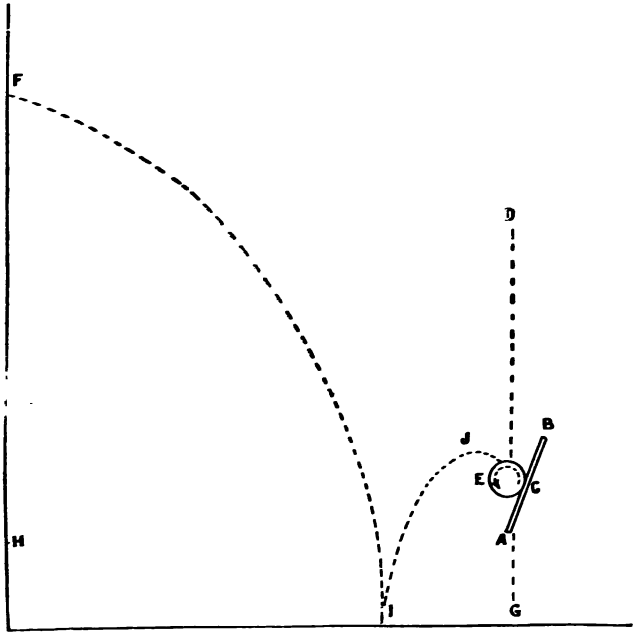

FIGURE 21.

Showing how principle of "lift" may be learnt.

—and I must admit it is hard to find any one with energy and intelligence enough in these degenerate days to thoroughly practise their scales before they "start right in on Wagner"—you must try to get a blank wall with a piece of smooth ground or

asphalt in front of it. Mark upon this wall a line H, say three feet high. Bounce your ball against the wall F, and when it has struck the ground at I, risen to the top of its bound J, and is beginning to fall (later on you may attack it earlier), "brush" your racket A B against its face, moving it sharply up in the line G D as shown in Fig. 21, hitting the ball as near the centre C of your racket A B as you can. In this case you will see that the face of the racket is inclined back at an angle from A to B. As the ball drops and your racket travels smartly up they meet at C. Instantly the downward flight of the ball is arrested at C, but continues at the opposite side E, and at the same moment your racket has gripped and rapidly pushed up the side of the ball at C, and passed on, imparting vertical forward rotatory action to the ball from C to E.

At first the ball will merely receive a little spin, go forward a few feet, and drop. As, however, you get the idea into your head, you will alter the angle of the face of the racket to suit the flight of the ball, and the distance you wish it to carry, and will gradually make your stroke, instead of a perpendicular "brush" upwards, go more through your shot at an angle approaching that from A to F. Very soon afterwards you will discover that you can improve this shot with a bit of wrist work which will soon come naturally.

So many players make this shot in different ways, that I cannot lay down any hard and fast rules as to the exact angle at which the blade of the racket must be held. That depends on so many things, the bound of the ball, the work that is on it, whether

G. M. SIMOND

FINISH OF FORE-HAND DRIVE

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you do much wrist work or not, the height at which you play it, and "quite a few" other things. I must content myself with showing how to get the stroke, and must leave you to adjust your own angles, and the amount of forward motion you put into your shot.

The same rotation may be obtained by pure lift on a straight under-hand shot played from beside the right foot, but it requires very accurate timing and moreover possesses no advantage over the shot above described.

There is another fore-hand drive that is a very useful shot, particularly if you are cramped for room. This is a kind of cross between the spin imparted by the fore-under-hand cut service and that of the lifting drive, and is obtained by bringing the racket, with swing as for the fore-hand plain drive, between the right leg and the line of flight of the ball, instead of, as in the ordinary drive, hitting the ball at the back with a tendency towards the side further from you. The stroke is played by bringing the face of the racket across the ball at, as nearly as I can say, an angle of forty-five degrees, so that the shot imparts a little of both "cut" and "lift" to the ball, which in its flight has the distinctive final "dive" of the lifted ball, and on account of the cross "cut" (similar to the under-hand service) frequently after hitting the ground keeps low. It is distinctly a useful and, when well played, by no means ungraceful shot. It is not, however, much used by those who have the lifting drive, and possesses few, if any, advantages over that shot.

I have not so far dealt specifically with the drive

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game. In this stroke it is of the utmost importance that the nature of the flight of the ball be considered, and a due appreciation of the angle at which the face of the racket should be held, be had. This will be apparent from a study of Figs. 22 and 23.

It must be remembered that, generally speaking, apart from any adventitious aids to the ball, the angles of incidence and reflection are the same; in other words, a ball, provided it has no spin or work, will rebound from a wall, or the ground, or the face of the racket held still and firmly, at almost exactly the same angle as that at which it hits it. In playing at a rising ball, many players forget this, and do not so use the blade of the racket as to counteract the upward tendency of the ball. For instance, in Fig. 22, the ball pitches from A to B and strikes the ground at B. It immediately bounds off at the same angle, and strives to pursue the course B C before it commences to drop. If then it be met at F with a vertical blade E D, as is so often done, it will unquestionably endeavour to fly off the racket at the natural angle F G. This tendency is certainly checked considerably by the impact of the racket, but it is there notwithstanding, and must and will assert itself in however small a degree. To correct this, the blade of the racket must in playing all lifted or plain rising balls, especially balls with much pace on them, be inclined forward as at E D, Fig. 23, to counteract this upward tendency and produce the flight F G. In attacking all rising balls, this idea should be firmly kept in mind, and once the mechanical principle in-

volved is grasped, I believe that all players will deal with a rising ball with much greater confidence and certainty than they do now.

Few, if any, players have thoroughly grasped this principle. So strong is this upward tendency that if the ball be rising fast, and is fairly high, it can be played in an almost unreturnable manner with fore-hand lift or top, which hits the ball with almost a horizontal sweep at that portion which lies half-way between the points F and H, and, if anything, sometimes a little further forward, especially if the ball be near the net.

I have never seen a player deliberately attempt to use the lifting stroke for a lob, but I am certain "it is there"[1] nevertheless, for of course the mechanical principles of such a lob and a drive are exactly similar, and I have seen so many fine fast deceptive lobs played off this stroke by miss-hits, or through exaggerated lift, that I could not but be struck by its possibilities in the hands of a skilful exponent.

[1] A year after this was written I saw M. Paul de Borman, whose excessive lift is well known, play this stroke at Wimbledon, and he told me that he had used it very effectively in mixed doubles. It is not, however, worthy of special cultivation.

THE BACK-HAND STROKE

PRACTICALLY all the general principles laid down with reference to the fore-hand lifting drive are applicable to the back-hand. The horizontal sweep on the back-hand is one of the very finest strokes I know, and has the advantage that when you have mastered it you can make an effective return of a ball which would be unreturnable, or only by an ineffective shot, in any other way. The shot I have in my mind is when you are caught out of position by a ball coming straight at your middle. Your thumb is up the back of the handle and your racket practically horizontal, as with a half-swing of your body, and of course transferring your weight from your left leg to your right, you draw the racket smartly across in front of you, and upwards and forwards, at the same time, producing a fine, unexpected return. Some of the Australian players are very good at this shot, but naturally it is more effective when played at a proper distance from the ball.

You will perhaps ask what is a proper distance. That I can hardly tell you, but this general rule will do, I think. You should never be so far from the ball as to feel that you have to make the least undue effort to step into its line of flight sufficiently

to reach it easily; and as to the position of your arms, my invariable rule at tennis or anything else is to get as close to my work as possible without cramping, and whether in volleying or driving be as compact as you can. Have nothing floating about loosely. Every muscle is, or should be, doing its appointed work as you play. Even the despised left arm, whose tennis muscle is generally so sadly lacking, has other functions than throwing up the ball for the service and helping to sustain the weight of the racket between strokes. All the time you will find that as your right arm does anything his sinister brother is closely attending, sympathising, and balancing; and if he isn't, it's your fault, not his.

The rule as to position of the feet is of course of as much importance here as in the ordinary plain face returns.

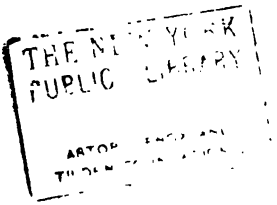
Now and again you will be caught out of position and have to make your return as best you may, but you must always remember the importance of playing the shot in correct position when you can.

There is one peculiarity about the back-hand stroke. That is, that you can play a lifting drive with a vertical stroke with far more certainty than is possible with a fore-hand shot. There is something in the action of the arm as it is drawn across the body which seems to lend itself to the shot, and played with a free swing and a clean follow through, it is a most beautiful and effective stroke. The ball must be struck well before it is in line with the body. The head of the racket hangs towards the ground, and the hand right above it is travelling

P. A. VAILE

FINISH OF BACK-HAND, CROSS-COURT DRIVE WITH FULL BODY WEIGHT AND CLEAN FOLLOW THROUGH, AND INTO STRIDE FOR THE NET

PLATE 14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rapidly forwards and obliquely upwards as the racket encounters the ball. At the moment of impact with the ball the face of the racket is almost vertical, and when the stroke is finished the racket is pointing high up in front of the right shoulder. This shot is nearly always played on a dropping ball, but by attention to the principles underlying the flight of the rising ball, could, if desired, I have no doubt, be adapted to that stroke.

In both this stroke and the fore-hand drive there is, in the shot of most players, a considerable amount of wrist work which imparts pace to the racket as it travels across the ball, and so materially adds to the amount of lift or top imparted to a return. This, however, as mentioned before, will come almost naturally when once you have learned the theory of the stroke and have followed it up assiduously on the court or against a wall.

THE CHOP

THE chop, frequently included in the general term "cut," is Number IV., that stroke which produces vertical backwardly rotating action as the ball is propelled from the racket.

This stroke is played by bringing the racket A B with its face nearly vertical, as shown at A B, Fig. 24, down the line E F in a forward and obliquely downward course, so that in passing the intended line of flight C D it meets the ball at C, and by reason of the glancing or brushing contact causes the ball to revolve upwardly and backwardly in the direction C G. This stroke, as its name implies, is from its very nature incapable of being played with a following through action. The racket, after hitting the ball, continues its downward course until it is suddenly arrested quite near the ground. Of course, with less chop the stroke may be played with more forward movement of the racket.

This is by no means a popular stroke, and as the staple of any one's game is not good, but in its place it is a fine shot, too little understood and played. There are some who contend that this stroke has no virtue which its more showy brother, the lifting drive, does not possess. I think I shall be able to show that this is not a correct statement.

The flight of this ball is entirely different from that of a lifted drive. It springs away from the racket, endeavouring to rise all the time, and has nothing whatever of that assisted tendency to find the base line which is the prominent and beneficial

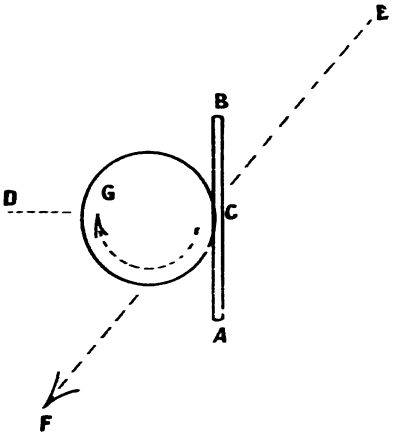

FIGURE 24.
The chop.

characteristic of the lift, in fact, on the contrary, this ball strives against gravitation as long as it can, while the other, once its initial spurt is finished, does its best to assist the natural law. This is most marked if you happen to be playing these shots up into a wind. The cut ball will get on the wind and sail gaily past the base line. The lifted ball puts

his head down and dives the more suddenly for the court.

There is a great peculiarity in the contrast of the flight of these two balls. They each behave on landing in a manner which seems quite opposed to mechanical laws. The lifted ball should, from its forward rotation, grip the ground and dart suddenly forward very low, while the cut ball should, at the moment of bounding, on account of its backward vertical rotation, be checked in its course, and if any thing break back. As a matter of fact the opposite is the case in all balls of medium pace and upwards. The explanation is that the sudden drop of the lifted ball causes it to strike the ground at a much more obtuse angle than it seems to, and thus naturally it comes up at something approaching, but of course, considering the forward rotation, not quite, the same angle as that at which it struck the ground, whereas the chop comes over the net and strikes the ground at a very acute angle with lots of backward rotation on it. There must be, I think, an appreciable amount of what engineers call "slip"—like the engine wheels flying round on the rail without moving the engine—before this ball grips the ground and bounds, and then, of course, the angle at which it hits the ground will be the sharper if we take a ball of each kind played with similar strength and length.

Added to this, if the ball be played with a little drag as well as cut, that is, if the motion imparted to it be a mixture of pure backward vertical rotation, and the left to right horizontal spin of the under-hand service, it keeps low and breaks away

MISS D. K. DOUGLASS

PLAYING BACK-HAND DRIVE WHILE RUNNING

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from left to right (from server's side) in a most uncertain manner.

The chop or cut well played is one of the most unpleasant shots you can have on the back-hand for several reasons. You have to calculate the break

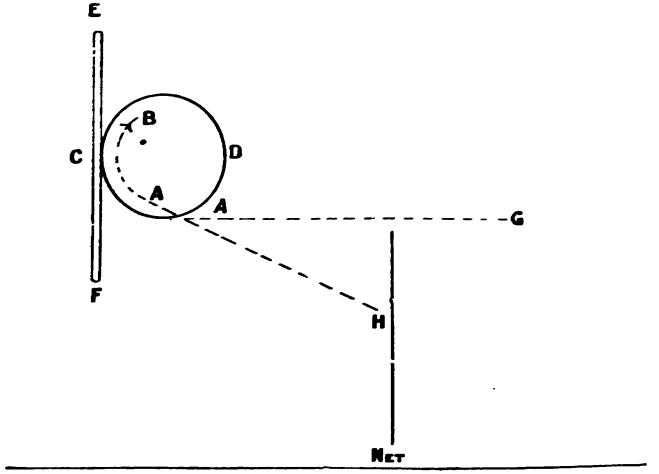


FIGURE 25.

Showing how chop played without force or crispness finds net by force of backward rotation on it.

and correct that by meeting it against the angle at which it will be travelling. Frequently you cannot gauge it exactly, and your racket finds the ball later than you intended it to, and you put the ball up to your opponent at the net or, not allowing for the backward rotation of the ball, which immediately it grips your racket develops a strong tendency to find mother earth, you play with the trajectory you would allow a plain ball and find your return in

the net. You will understand what I mean by a reference to Fig. 25.

Here you will see the ball passes over the net in the line G A with a large amount of vertical backward rotation from A to B, and suddenly strikes the racket F E at C. The instant the backward rotation is checked at C, the point at D is thrown violently down, and unless the tendency of the backward rotation is corrected by a sufficiently smart stroke or sufficiently corresponding cut to that which produced the rotation already on the ball, it will inevitably find the net, as shown by the dotted line C H. Many a time and often have I beaten the man at the net on this. He has counted it an easy low volley over the net, and so it would have been off a plain ball, but he has made the mistake common to so many lawn tennis players, "He has not been thinking about what the ball is doing in the air." I put this as a quotation. It is of vast importance. You must think what the ball is doing in the air every time. It is no worry to do this. It is one of the pleasures of the game, and will come quite naturally in time.

As you see a billiard ball running round the table you watch it and calculate that it has not enough side, or has too much side, or that possibly it has the wrong side. It is no trouble. Do you ever do the same at tennis?

To me one of the chief delights of Lawn Tennis is to beat my opponent by head work. It is astonishing what a little thing will win the match for you, and apropos of the cut you will perhaps excuse me if I inflict a little tale on you here.

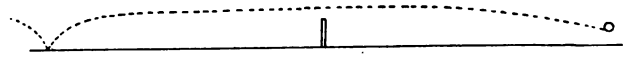
I had not played for some time when I was suddenly called on to meet an old opponent, a man whom it was always a pleasure to meet, for he "kept me guessing" the whole time. The first set he played a great game, ran in on me and smothered everything with fine cross court volleys which skimmed the net continually. He was just missing the duck, and playing very accurately and confidently. I changed my tactics next set and, when pressed, time and again drove, and chopped hard and low, at his middle, both good shots when you cannot get away from the net man's attentions. I was mush interested to note how many of the chopped balls found the net, and thereafter I had not much trouble. Now you must understand a champion would perhaps have considered why is this thus, and have acted accordingly, but you may accept it as an indisputable fact that many of them do not think enough, and that their execution of strokes is much above their knowledge of the game.

In returning a chopped ball with a lifting drive it must be remembered that you are about to accentuate the rotation. In the matter of rotation similar strokes check the spin, dissimilar accentuate it. It will be apparent then to a very ordinary understanding that in "lifting" a chopped ball allowance must be made, for (speaking from the striker-out's side) it already has a large amount of forward vertical rotation, and if he puts the same amount of lift into his stroke that he would were he dealing with a plain ball intended just to escape the net, he will inevitably turn the chopped ball down into the net.

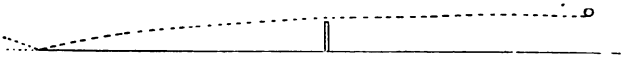
The cut or chop can be most effectively played on

a high-bounding ball, and for a straight passing shot down your opponent's back-hand off such a ball it is hard to beat, also it is a very nice shot to

Ordinary plain face drive without rotation showing even and symmetrical flight of ball and bound thereof.



Drive with lift or forward vertical rotation showing sudden drop at base line when initial force weakened, also bound with rotation still asserting its influence.



The chop (usually played on fairly high bounding ball) showing peculiar straight flight due to backward vertical rotation, also peculiar shooting bound.

FIGURE 25A.

go up on, and there are lots of contingencies about it; but mind you don't get too fond of it.

Figure 25A is a comparison of the flight and bound of the ordinary plain-faced drive without rotation, the drive with lift, and the chop or cut.

G. A. CARIDIA

FINISH OF BACK-HAND STROKE OFF A RISING BALL NEAR THE BASELINE

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THE LOB

I THINK the question of straight dropping lobs is worthy of a little further consideration. Supposing you are near the base line, and a very high lob is dropping straight down to you. It will by the time it reaches you have acquired quite a considerable impetus. Of course, few, if any, lobs drop absolutely straight down, but I am for argument sake imagining such a one. You are waiting for this. To play your shot perfectly, you must hit that ball on a little piece in the middle of your racket no bigger than, if indeed as large as, the palm of your hand. Has it ever occurred to you to wonder what infinitesimal portion of a second there is within which that stroke can be properly played? If your racket head be inclined forwardly and downwardly as you strike the ball, you can see how hopeless it will be to make a good shot. I cannot impress on you too forcibly that to smash well you must get well under your work. One of the chief faults with the service of many beginners is that they throw the ball up too far in front of them and naturally enough smite it into the net. So little is the time that you actually have for making the stroke, and so great the downward impetus, that many players unconsciously correct the falling tendency, and give themselves a little more margin of time in which to play the shot by standing in under the ball a little further than is

advisable for a severe smash, and playing the shot with the head of the racket further back than the wrist, so that the blade lies back at an angle which allows the ball to fall on to the face of it at a very sharp angle. There is the quick dropping ball, which has to be judged from, say, ninety feet—I have seen a Yankee "skyscraper" so high—and your swiftly wielded racket travelling at right angles to

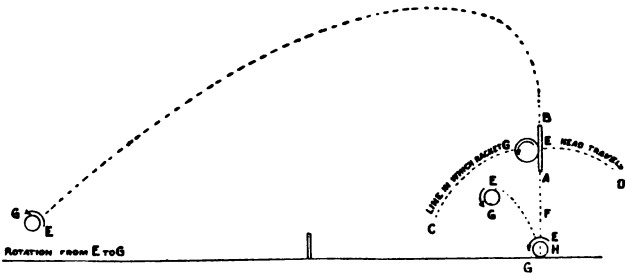


FIGURE 26.

Showing flight of cut lob (*a*) being smashed at E, (*b*) bounding at H.

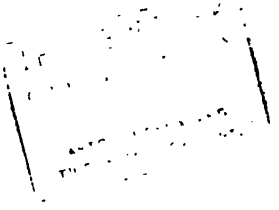
A, F, H. Imaginary continuance of flight.
H. Ball and point of contact with earth. Rotation E G asserting itself and producing bound H G, or modified form thereof.

each other to meet practically exactly where you intend them to. You may accept my word for it that smashing lobs require practice, and should get it. Try to imagine yourself playing this shot with a racket having a blade four inches in diameter and a handle eighteen inches long. This is what you practically do every time you make a perfect smash. A consideration of these statements and a glance at the accompanying Fig. 26 on the subject will show you the importance of making your lobs drop

straight if there is any chance of your opponents getting at them.

The peculiar flight of the lob shown is given with the object of drawing attention to the sudden and straight drop of cut lobs. It would almost seem that directly the initial force is expended, a cut lob should drop straighter than a lifted one, and it is certainly a safer shot so far as present developments are concerned, but a lifted lob is a shot I have never seen designedly played, whereas cut lobs are common. With a cut lob it must not be forgotten that in addition to dropping dead, and having acquired downward impetus, it is revolving backwardly towards the net and away from him who is going to play it (E, G, Fig. 26), so that the moment his racket grips it at E, a third force which is fighting in favour of the lobber is called into being, for the instant the backward rotation is checked by the impact of the racket on that side of the ball nearer the volleyer at E, the other side at G strives all it can to run down the racket. Of course, it cannot do it if the volley is well played, but many a time have I smiled to myself, as I have seen the man at the net trust his racket to return a shot of mine which would have infallibly come back off the same stroke if the ball had not been rotating backwardly, but as the ball had been allowed to strike the racket, instead of the racket striking it, it had simply gripped it, curled about on its face momentarily and fallen down. I repeat you must deal determinedly with a ball which is rotating considerably.

Remember then that when you put up a good, straight-dropping cut lob you have three good allies fighting for you:



THE VOLLEY

I HAVE already dealt fairly fully with the volley, so that it practically only remains for me here to discuss the effect and advantages of those strokes which impart spin or work to the ball.

Both services, the fore-hand cut, and the reverse over-head, make splendid volleys for two reasons: firstly, the grip which one gets on the ball gives one a greater certainty in placing the ball; and, secondly, the line of flight of the ball being influenced merely by the angle at which the face of one's racket hits it at the last moment, it is almost impossible to anticipate correctly its flight, and moreover from its spin, which in a severe stroke is considerable, the bound will be low and erratic, and render a safe return, even if the ball be reached, problematical. Up till the very moment of striking, it may look as if you intended to smash the ball back to the base line, when, at the last fraction of a second, your blade turns, and the ball flies on to the side line between the service line and the net.

For many volleys at the net the cut is advantageous, especially if you want to drop a ball short, and indeed I never advise playing a ball off the ground by a tap with the plain face. It is more certain as a general rule to cut it over if you want to drop it short, and it gives the opposing side less time to reach it.

Although one rarely sees them used, the fore-hand and back-hand lifting drives make beautiful and effective volleys when the ball comes to hand at a suitable elevation, and the return can be played so sharply across court as to be almost a certain score. I have seen some of the Americans play these shots splendidly. They are well worth trying, as the would-be champion cannot know too much. One of England's foremost players who never volleys unless he cannot help himself, when forced to do so, plays a fierce and effective fore-hand volley of this description.

I would lay it down as a general rule that you should not volley straight down the court, but rather cut it off at an angle. As in everything else, however, you must be guided by circumstances, and you must remember that you must not go seeking the side lines when you can win with a yard to spare; and again, do not bother about making ferocious gallery smashes where force is unnecessary, for you are only making your opponent a present of so much energy. On the other hand, if he picks up one of your "pats," which you should have "murdered," I shall be the last to say an extenuating word in your favour.

Many volleys are killed by pure pace, others are smashed hard on to the ground with such force that the bound carries them beyond your opponent's reach. It is necessary to consider that you mean to hit this latter kind of volley down into the court. Don't trust to gravitation and acquired impetus for this shot. Remember that if you mean to make an effective smash you must call upon your body to assist you and throw your weight into the stroke.

'THE LADIES'

I HAVE read, I think, every book that has been published on Lawn Tennis during the last fifteen years, and one thing that I have always resented is the half-contemptuous manner in which the ladies get turned off with about three or four pages at the end of the book. I am not a man prone to wrath, but many a time have I thought of writing to *The Times* about it, but I have always been over-persuaded, I think it is called.

After thinking it over I have come to the conclusion—the only conclusion possible, it seems, to me—that this is not deliberate rudeness, is not indeed even due to the feeling that woman is an inferior tennis-creature, but that it has simply arisen from a "want of ignorance" (as Paddy said) of the subject of my discourse.

The worst feature of the whole case is that they are generally handed over to the tender mercies of another woman, generally, of course, a lady champion. How could any one expect my little girls to receive sympathetic treatment from one who is probably much older than they are, and very likely plays better than they do (for every one knows the awful superiority of the lady champion, especially if, as is almost certainly the case, my pupils are prettier than she is)? No, this is quite a mistake.

For sympathetic treatment of a woman—especially a pretty woman—I always recommend a man—generally, in the latter case, myself—and I take on this chapter with more pleasure and confidence than any other in the book. I would not allow any woman to usurp my rights and privileges.

I think that any man who can show such haste to get lovely woman off his hands cannot really have that sympathetic affinity—I think that will do—with his pupils which is the essence of the born teacher of women—that's me—excuse the grammar, or want of it.

I can imagine such a one when Gwendoline had said, "No, Egbert! It cannot be. I can never be aught to you but a sister," exclaiming, "Oh cruel one, dost thou condemn me to go to an early grave, alone, by myself, solitary, and without any company?" instead of heaving a great sigh and saying, "Let it go at that, Gwen," with the mental reservation that he would interpret "brotherly privileges" according to his own lights.

And if Gwendoline should happen to be one of those poor neglected tennis aspirants, what an opportunity is here for the "brother" if he "knows the game"—both games—as I do. Propinquity, brotherly privileges, and lawn tennis, and it must be a poor man who cannot extend those privileges. I know you'll say I'm talking nonsense. Perhaps some of it is, but underlying it is a grain of commonsense, and you must allow something for the fact that I am writing about playing now, and for the reaction from "International Law," and the heavy science I have been pouring forth in the antecedent

P. A. VAILE

LOBBING. STROKE PLAYED, BALL LEAVING RACKET AND RACKET FOLLOWING THROUGH

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pages, and you must remember that "A little nonsense now and then is relished by the wisest—wo-men."

To go on from where I was when you interrupted me, I may tell you that there is much interest in teaching Gwen as a sister—and more as the other thing. First, she won't hold the racket right, and you have to move her little fingers—you needn't hurry of course. When that is done you must see that her grip is firm. It surely isn't. Make it—slowly. Then the position of the feet. They must be wrong—put them right. Then the general "stance," as we say at golf. You must see that the plump little right shoulder droops nicely, that the body is swung away from the net at right angles, and this may involve some explanation and practical demonstration—on Gwen, of course—as to how the waist moves a little more slowly than the shoulders; and all this over and over again, for you must not be too easily satisfied. Oh! propinquity, and brotherly privileges and lawn tennis, are quite as good as "Yes" any time, and vastly more interesting—and now I must really have done with foolishness, and come right down to business and science again, after having found just sufficient fault with the other men, to insinuate that I couldn't be such a bad lot as they are if I tried.

But speaking quite seriously, it has always seemed to me that the ladies' tennis has been treated as quite a subsidiary matter. Now this is not as it should be. We have much to be thankful to the ladies for, and in tennis, as in everything else, I think it will be readily admitted that we could not

get on without them, and many of them, both here and abroad, have done much by personal example, skill, and active assistance, to elevate the game to the position it now holds, which yet, I have no hesitation in saying, is not that position which its merit entitles it to, for there are few, if any, finer games, as it is a game which calls for most, if not all, of those qualities that go to make a man or a woman. Courage, stamina, skill, alertness both mental and physical, self-restraint, patience, determination, perseverance, equanimity under adverse circumstances, are some of the qualifications, and downright hard work the portion, of him or her who would absolutely excel at this game.

Now I want you to understand "right here," my fair readers, that every word in this book is intended for you. The men may certainly read it, and accept the benefit of it if they desire to do so, but you must understand that there is hardly a statement, an explanation, or a diagram which is not intended for your benefit. The highest standard of practical lawn tennis of the present day is that which our men champions have attained, and so many of our ladies are now playing the game so well, and are showing such wonderful stamina and agility, and, above all things, "mixing" their game so judiciously, that I have again no hesitation in saying that all I have written, and probably all I shall write, is intended for the ladies.

You may ask where you come in in men's doubles. Even those, so whole-hearted am I in this matter, are meant for you also, and here, with the advancing tendencies of the age, I am glad to see, and welcome

you, in your invasion of the men's old-time territory. No longer are you content to hang round the base line, and indulge in interminable rests of semi-lobs. One of you in a double will quite often be found at the net looking for any soft stuff that may be wandering about, and it is only a question of a little more time, a little more physical energy, a little more scientific training, and last, but by no "manner of means" least, a few more large-hearted sympathetic male souls like myself, and you will be found ranged alongside your sister at the net presenting an impregnable wall to anything except a lob; and this shall not apply only to your doubles, for if you will range up alongside your sister as I say and know you will, how much the more readily will you hasten to brother Egbert's assistance when you have the additional attraction of the semi-fraternal relation, and the confidence which is begot in every woman when she knows that by her, and fighting for her, is a mere man, even though it is a brother, or a half-brother—or an elected brother. Then you will have got as far as you can in playing the real game, and the rest will be mere assiduous practice. Already many of you come up to the net in a most judicious manner, and volley really well, and it is only by mixing your game thus that you can sustain ladies' tennis at its present high standard.

I have a few more remarks to make to you here, and elsewhere, but again I desire to impress upon you most forcibly that everything I have written, except such obviously unsuitable remarks as the advice to wear knickerbockers, is meant for you, and that I am not contenting myself with letting it

be thought that there is only a little bit of this book for you, for that is not so.

Even on the knickerbocker question, I shall advise you—I know this with many is superfluous—to get as near to the man as the customs of your country, county, or club will permit. Don't have any unnecessary loose material clinging round your—I hope, like Micawber when referring to the lady's "sea legs," I am guilty of no conventional impropriety in saying—tennis legs.[1]

I have seen some wonderful things in the way of ladies' dress—and undress. I shall mention two, but you need not be alarmed. At one tennis tournament I saw a poor girl—needless to say, from the country—contest a match in her riding habit, which she held on one arm as she careered wildly about the court. It interfered slightly with her service. At another, a hardy old lady asked permission from the committee to play in her "stocking-soles," saying she preferred it. After due deliberation the request was allowed, and public expectation ran high. It was found, however, when she came to play that she used a full pair of stockings, and really was quite active. She was getting quite near to my contention (in fact, beyond it) that you should use the thinnest soled and lightest shoe you can put up with, and have it as tight as possible without causing

[1] This paragraph, I regret to say, has been misconstrued. It has been alleged that I advocate knickerbockers for ladies ! ! It was, I may explain, a Scotch person who started the base story. Simplified for those who need it, the paragraph means that in my opinion lady players, especially young ones, should wear some approximation to the serviceable short dresses worn by Miss Toupie Lowther, or Miss May Sutton.

P. A. VAILE

WAITING FOR A SMASH

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you inconvenience. I think that this is about as far as I can go in advising about your dress. If there are any other details which you are anxious about, you must seek advice from some lady friend who has had experience, but as a general rule don't wear anything that will interfere with the free action, particularly of your shoulders and arms.

Now as to your game. I should strongly advise you to cultivate the over-head services. They are the most effective. As to whether you have sufficient stamina to continue using them throughout a tournament, I cannot, of course, speak. You will soon find out about that, but even if you cannot they are most valuable as a change. If you cannot serve the over-head services, or being able to serve them, desire to rest yourself, you must fall back on practically the only one left you, and that is the underhand fore-hand service, with plenty of work on it, shown at Fig. 12. Don't be afraid to make it curl. This is by no means a service to be despised. Well delivered it takes a good man frequently all his time to make a very effective return off this service, for it breaks out of court and keeps low, working all the time. It is opposite the highest part of the net, and unless it is returned sharp across the middle of the net or by a good lob, it has a fair chance of coming near the net man; also the work on it and its low bound make it by no means an ideal ball to lob. As a matter of fact, well played this service is very near the reverse over-head service (one of the most effective) minus a little pace, so that if you do occasionally, or always even, have to fall back on it do not be disheartened and consider it a sign of weakness,

because perhaps your opponent is sending you over-head stuff which really may not be so effective as your more unassuming deliveries. Remember always to vary your pace, the place where your ball pitches, and the amount of work on the ball. Don't get stereotyped. There is lots of room for variety in this one service.

Now I come to a question of supreme importance to lady tennis players, and that is volleying. It is amazing how few ladies, comparatively speaking, volley really well. This is not because they cannot. It is in many cases purely a want of moral courage and knowledge, and if she is caught young enough, and is interesting, and is brought to me soon enough after her capture, so that she has not had time to develop bad tennis habits, I will guarantee to make a reasonably competent volleyer of any lady with a good eye; provided always it is not too distracting. Now, for fear of being swamped with "offers"—not that I should mind it if time would permit—I shall endeavour to explain my methods.

I have many a time been amused by my fair pupil, with an excellent over-head service, declaring dejectedly that she knows it is impossible for her to volley. When I have explained to her that every time she gets in an over-head service, barring the fact that the ball has not dropped very far, she is playing one of the very hardest over-head volleys—if indeed it be not the very hardest—she generally begins to pluck up courage, but always assures me she knows she cannot hit it back after the "other girl" or the "horrid man" on the other side has hit it. This is the strength of feminine imagination.

I then induce her gently to the net, and ask her if she will hold her racket stiffly an inch or two on her side of the net and above it. I then show her that a ball that hits that racket will jump back of its own rebound. I make her stand away a little further until the rebound will no longer do it. All the time she is becoming accustomed to the idea that the mere meeting of a ball in flight with a stiff wrist, and the face at a proper angle, will produce an excellent volley close to the net. After I have got so far it is generally easy to induce her to let herself go a little more, and she makes a few good shots off easy balls, then misses one not so easy, and turns to me with a heart-breaking little wail of "There, I know I car-r-r-n't do it!" quite oblivious of the fact that the odds are three to one in her favour—or have been—and that she is getting on quite nicely.

I am mentioning this latter little trait, not with any desire to be funny at my pupil's expense, but because it is really very important. The moral effect on a lady of a missed smash or volley always seems to me to be about seven times what it is on a man. I have seen in a ladies' championship doubles when it was set all 5—4 and 40 love, the little girl on the leading side, who had been volleying really well, miss a volley, which certainly was an easy one, and then retire disconsolately to the base line when she should have been attacking for all she was worth and taking every risk rather than retreat. The game was called 5 all, 6 all, and was ultimately won by the retreating volleyer's side at 8—6; but the moral effect of that one missed volley at a critical

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stage was nearly too much for her. Ladies must fight against this and go on the general average, always remembering that although it may possibly hearten up their opponents, a missed volley counts no more than a bungled ground shot, and they must remember that unless they are physically deficient and have such bad eyes that they are not fit to play —and they won't admit that, ergo—they can all volley, especially if they start as I indicate at the net; and let me tell you, my fair reader, that in a ladies' double one who can volley well, even as I indicate, is no mean partner, for with your opponents on the back line it is a deadly shot.

Practically all of that in my general remarks on tactics which you are physically able to carry out is for your benefit. You will probably find that you cannot run in as much as the men, and for that reason you must husband your strength and only go in on good length or well-placed balls, which look like a good thing at the net; but once you have decided to go in, get there with all convenient speed, and if your ball is likely to make it difficult for your opponent to reply with a good lob, get right up to the net. In my chapter on singles you will see that I emphasise this point.

There is one matter that I must refer to particularly here. Every lady whom I have seen starting to learn tennis watches the ball carefully and anxiously until it strikes the ground. Then there is a little rustle, a little rush, a big sweep of the racket in the air, and a little scream as the ball pursues the even tenor of its way. Lady beginners invariably run in too close to the ball. Were I teaching an absolute

beginner, the first exercise I should give her would be in judging distance. I should make her stand without a racket and gauge the flight and bound of the ball so that it should alight on its second bound two feet to the right of her left foot. When she could do this accurately I should give her the racket.

Many ladies, even experienced players, have this fault in a modified degree, that is to say, they are not quick enough in judging the flight of the ball the moment it leaves their opponent's racket. They wait until it is in their court before they start running. As a matter of fact the moment it has left your opponent's racket you must see where it is going, and run to meet it. If by her backward swing preparatory to striking, and the position of her body, considering also the openings in your court, you can anticipate the direction the ball will take before it is struck, you will understand that you have so much more time to be in position to meet the ball.

Everything that I have said with regard to the position of the feet must be carefully observed, and on this depends both the grace and effectiveness of your strokes, and above everything be careful of your back-hand stroke. You seem to fall into the fore-hand position naturally. Unless you carefully follow the instructions given or get some one to show you, it is odds on you will get a wrong style for your back-hand, and then I should be sorry, and should consider that in your case it was Love's labour lost, for with me I can assure you that, especially in this chapter, it is a labour of love—and I want to see good results for it.

THE SINGLE GAME

One of the greatest faults committed by lawn tennis players is that of endeavouring to win outright off an unsuitable ball, instead of being content to get it back with good length or position, or both, and waiting until there is a good chance of finishing the rest.

Perhaps this fault is in no case more apparent than in the return of the service, which you repeatedly see driven into the net a foot down. Now this might be excusable where your opponent is rushing at you and you cannot get him out of your mind, which indeed it is very hard to do, but how often do we see it done when the opposing player is calmly waiting on the base line for your return. As you have quite two feet above the net to put up a good length medium pace return, and you have driven it into the net a foot below the duck, you are only three feet below where you need have been, with a certain ace against you, instead of being up at the net waiting for the return of a well-pitched ball, with a reasonable chance of bringing off a volley that should count to you. Lay this to heart. It is unquestionably one of the chief faults of most, and particularly of young, players.

MISS D. K. DOUGLASS

SMASHING

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To my mind there is, speaking from a purely theoretical point of view, only one way to play a single, and that is to play from or close behind the base line until you have either got your opponent out of position, or have delivered such a well-placed or effective service or return that you are justified in advancing to the net with the object of volleying your opponent's return.

Many players, particularly the Americans, consistently run in on their service and on every possible chance, and many impossible ones. It is a good fault, and I am inclined to be lenient towards it. Of course, in following up your service you have not much time for consideration, and you may and do no doubt get in, and score off lots of stuff that theoretically is not good enough to go up on. You commit an error in theory, but the end justifies the means. I consider that every ball that is good enough, be it service or return, should be followed to the net, I say "to" the net—not to the service line—but I do not think that promiscuous rushing in is to be encouraged, and, given two men of equal skill, the persistent rusher will go down to him who chooses his opportunity.

No one can be a greater advocate of the volley than I. It is positively painful to me to see big, strong, active men dancing from side to side of the base line, exchanging long smites from end to end of the court, occasionally coming in to the service line, and welting an inoffensive ball on the bound and then scuttling back to the base line, instead of getting right in and waiting for a "kill." That I cannot pass as ideal tennis, and the men that play it

can only do so from an ignorance of the true joys of the real game and, I firmly believe, of their own powers.

In treating of the single game I shall deal only with the game as I consider it should be played, because the proper game is really a judicious combination of the wild rusher and the base-line wanderer.

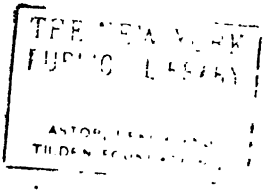
Service.—I have dealt fully with the different kinds of service, but so far I have not touched upon them specifically as regards their use when in general play. I do not believe in persistent running in, any more than I do in consistently serving to a man's back-hand even though it is his weakest point. He gets used to it and is prepared for it. Let him not know when to expect it. That is what troubles him. Choose your time and your opportunities for following up your service, even as you do for following up your returns. As a general rule I like to hammer at my opponent's weak spot, and with most people this is, as is well known, their back-hand. Give him every opportunity for practice, but now and again with a sharp shot across the court let him remember that he has a fore-hand. Serve every ball with a definite intention. When I have decoyed a man into the centre line by touching him up on the back-hand for three or four serves, and then have finally left him standing by a smart cross-court service, I have enjoyed that more than anything I got out of the four. That was the one I was working for, although quite willing to take what I could get from the others.

It is a good plan now and again to serve straight

H. L. DOHERTY

PLAYING A SMASH. BALL LEAVING RACKET

PLATE 21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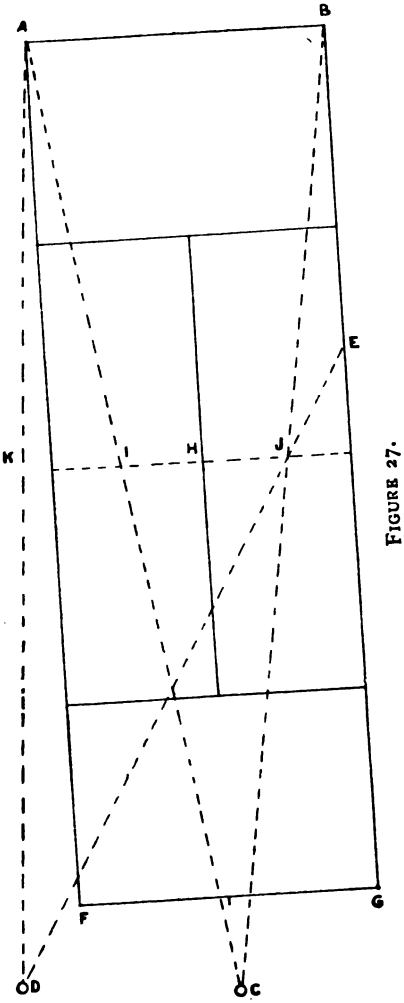

FIGURE 27.
Showing value of centre theory.

at your man. If the service is fast and well placed it frequently gives you an advantage. Remember above everything to try to so regulate your game that your opponent may not be able to anticipate your shots. Keep him "guessing." It is stimulating for his intellect, and there is more pleasure for you in it.

Return of service.—The two commonest returns of the service are side-line or cross-court drives, and they are both good, especially if your opponent is running in on his service. In that case you must endeavour to make your cross-court shot sharp across the court and also put plenty of lift on it. This not only makes it more sure of finding the side line and keeping in but imparts that deceptive flight and drop to it that makes it by no means an easy shot to treat effectively even if it be reached. Never make up your mind what shot you are going to play until the ball is coming at you. It will almost certainy be unsuitable if you do. Having made up your mind, stick to it. Changing is generally expensive.

If my opponent is not running in, directly I see the least opening I am very partial to a drive down the middle of the court with an inclination towards the back-hand half-court, say anywhere within 6 or 8 feet of the centre line. This stroke has manifold advantages especially if you desire to follow it up, as it closes up the angles of the court which are open for the return in quite a remarkable manner, and also it runs no risk of going out over the side line, so that your anxieties are confined to length.

Many players think a ball well down the player's back-hand corner is quite the best to go in on, but it

will be seen from Fig. 27 that this is not necessarily so, and of course the same argument applies to the fore-hand.

Fig. 27 and the angles thereon will explain my idea at a glance when taken in conjunction with the letterpress. A player driving a ball from say six feet outside the base-line as at C to the extreme diagonals of the courts at A and B is practically covered by the man at the net H. If, however, the ball is at D the player is driving it into the court which it is never even over until it reaches A, and he has his quick-dropping back-hand cross-court shot to E, so that he has practically both sides of the net open to him. Of course, you will say a man need not drive to the extreme diagonals. That is certainly so. He may endeavour to reach the side lines nearer the service line, but he will have a bad chance of getting beyond the reach of your racket with any except a first-class shot if you are at H and he is at C, especially if he is the least little bit at sea, and you are making him risk the side lines all the time.

Now as to running up. I would not have you for a moment imagine that I desire to throw cold water on this habit, although it is carried to extremes by some of our champions, especially when they are opposed to men of weaker calibre than themselves, and here it pays handsomely at times. On the contrary, I would lay it down as a good general axiom, "When in doubt race for the net," as, for instance, when you are caught a bit out of position in the three-quarter court. It is always easier to run up than to run back and,

The moral effect of "bustling" your opponent can

scarcely be exaggerated. This is very important and it is not sufficiently insisted on by tennis writers. You who have played golf know only too well how, if your unfortunate caddie should heave a heavy sigh just as you are about to drive, it will, at least so you are prepared to assert after you have played, ruin your shot. Is your tennis temperament then so utterly dissimilar, or are the people who play it so differently constituted that it will assist a man to play an accurate shot if he see a wild-eyed, stern-faced figure dancing about at the net with swinging racket and ready to do his best to spoil the return? You may take my word for it that the general principles involved, and the feelings of the individuals engaged, are much the same, and this is one of the strongest of my reasons for saying, "When in doubt race for the net," and also why I feel more leniently disposed towards the consistent, or persistent, rusher.

How to receive the service.—It is very hard to lay down any general rule as to your position when your opponent is serving, as so much depends upon the style of your stroke and the variety of service you are dealing with. I have one fixed general principle of my own, which I shall give for what it is worth. I always keep as nearly as possible diagonally opposite to him, and generally try to divide the space into which he can serve, and the consequent area which the spread of the ball in that segment of a circle which is available for it can cover, so that I have, roughly speaking, half of such segment on either side of me. In Fig. 28, D represents the striker-out.

A glance at Fig. 28 will show A the server as the centre of a circle. Every service is practically a

ANTHONY NORRIS

(*Editor of "Lawn Tennis and Croquet"*)

FINISH OF SMASH PLAYED WHILE RUNNING BACKWARDS

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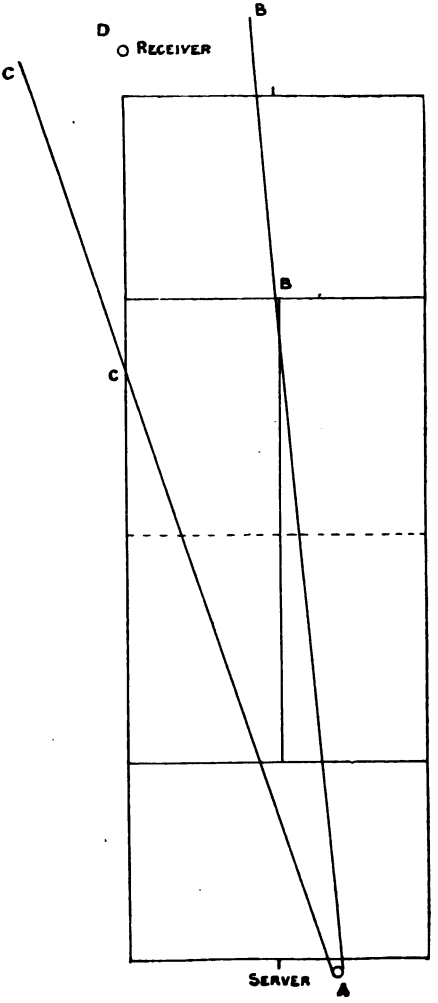

FIGURE 28.
Showing suggested position of receiver of service.

radius, and the full available segment of the circle for A's service is (except for balls with a large amount of cut, and which are naturally slower), that space within the lines A C and A B, and generally speaking it is much less, for I am here taking the extremes of exact placing on either side. Sometimes you will have to be six feet or more outside the base line, at others you may be on the base line. So much depends upon the service, the ground, the wind, and so on, that I cannot lay down any particular position, but another useful axiom is "Always be far enough back," for the same old cry holds good, it is easier to advance than to retreat, and moreover is right and natural, and you have the added advantage of being under way if you want to follow your return to the net.

In Mr. Baddeley's excellent work, published in 1895, he says every singles player who desires to excel must have a base from which to operate, having one base for back play, and another for volleying. These bases he appoints, for back play, a little outside the centre of the base line, and for volleying, about five to nine feet from the centre of the net, "the nearer the net the better." These last are truly words of wisdom, and must not be forgotten. I go further and say, "Don't be five feet away." If you have got your opponent so that he can probably not play an effective lob, "sit right up on the net," in other words, be just so far away from it that you can play your stroke without hitting it.

In the same paragraph, however, Mr. Baddeley has these remarkable words, "immediately he has made a stroke he must return to one of these bases." Why must? Now if he had said "if in

doubt," I should have been inclined to agree with him, and so modified, I think the advice is sound and good at the present day, although it is nine or ten years old, but as the game is played now, you haven't time to be looking for your base. Imagine yourself, having played a ball wide on the backhand, racing for your base. You know the chances are ten to one it will go away to the other side, and you do not think of checking your gallop on the central base. Players should always remember this, that generally speaking it is in one of two directions that the return must come. Mathematically it is even money it will go in the direction furthest from you. The tennis odds are at least about fifteen to one it will. This is good enough to back every time. Race for that place. Now and again it will come back to where you were, and it is hard to check your run, return, and play a good shot, but my theory is sound, as you will see. You cannot cover the whole court, and you must go where you have the best chance of meeting the ball. It is a most effective return to drive the ball back to the spot whence your opponent has started his run, and I am very fond of it, but don't do it too often, as he will get wary, and moreover you are saving him some exertion. Make it your aim to give your opponent all the exercise you can. Keep him running. Find out his sore spot. Then, like a skilful prize-fighter, hit him on it again and again. Keep it raw. If you find that he dislikes any particular service or stroke, don't be stingy with it. I remember playing one match in which my opponent soon evinced quite a loathing for "chops," especi-

ally on his back-hand. He didn't think they were tennis, so I gave him the strongest meat of this description that I could furnish, and I am afraid he did not enjoy his game. It may not sound agreeable, but that is the game: once you have found your opponent's weakness, or pet aversion, keep at it; and per contra, when you have discovered his strength, don't worry about giving him any chances to show it, until the match is over.

It is a mistake in any game of lawn tennis, singles, doubles, or combined, to get "fixed" during a rest. Once the ball is in play the player should be "going" till it is dead, and even before it is in play mind you are not too set. Do not, as I have seen some players do, stand at the net with legs wide-straddled, but be in such a position that you can "get off the mark" instantly.

I want you to particularly remember the cross-court back-hand shot, DE, Fig. 27. It is an invaluable passing shot, and it is astonishing how close to the net you can drop it, especially if you have put a fair amount of lift on it. The same applies, in a somewhat less degree I think, although theoretically they are exactly similar, to the corresponding shot on the fore-hand.

Many players, in fact most, do not take full advantage of the facilities offered by the lifting drives for sharp cross-court shots. Of course there is the objection that if it is not an outright score you let your man up, and you also risk going out at the side line, but it is a shot which should be more cultivated than it is by the great body of players.

Most players think it is essential to drive at a man

THE LATE MR. H. S MAHONY
PLAYING LOW FORE-HAND VOLLEY

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who is running in. As a matter of fact a slow (especially if it be quick-dropping) shot is very often much harder for him to play. With the drive the pace of the ball helps him. With the slow shot, if he gets to it, he has to do the hitting at the end of his run, and frequently the result is not satisfactory, as this class of return requires better judgment and timing than most players are prepared to give it on the run. Some of the Australian players are wonderfully good at these slow passing shots.

When in position at the net do not volley back down the centre of the court if your opponent is up also. I have seen the Americans throw away countless points on this. Play the ball at an acute angle across the court with a smart crisp volley. This is the advantage of being right at the net. If you are volleying from near the service line it follows that you cannot get the sharp angles.

The Lob.—I do not think I have much to add to what I have said about the lob. It is a stroke which should be carefully cultivated as its value cannot be over-estimated. It is a good point to lob your opponent, if he has the sun in his face and is bothered by it at all. If he replies in kind when you change sides and the sun worries you, let the lob bound and either attempt to kill it at the top of its bound or reply by a lob. The lob can be played with wonderful accuracy with the back cut or chop. I have seen a Melbourne player do some phenomenal lobbing with this stroke, but for all general work I think the plain face shot is good enough—unless you find the other suits you better—and if the idea of halving the distance be carried out, I think it will be

found to increase the accuracy in length. Fig. 29 will illustrate what I mean. It may not suit every player, but it is worth a trial. In Fig. 29, B on the base line is lobbing to the other base line at A. Instead of thinking about the point A let him concentrate his energies on putting the ball up to C at the top of its flight. This you will say is a distinction without a difference. Perhaps it is, but it is long odds you have never tried it. Do so.

There is one point about a cut lob which is of

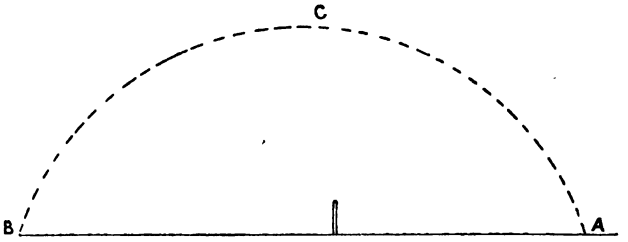


FIGURE 29.

Showing theory of halving the distance for lobs instead ot playing for the base line.

value and I must not omit mention of it. If the work on it is sufficient, it follows that the bound is untrue. Now it is a very remarkable thing how rarely you see a player anticipate an untrue bound in a lob (although in general work it is often done), and on account of this peculiarity I have scored many a shot with them. This shows how little heed is paid to what the ball is doing in the air. The player is generally racing back, and in many cases he just gets there, when to his surprise the ball either breaks in at him, for he will generally be playing it fore-

hand, and it is generally a fore-hand cut, or it jumps up straight, and so he has to hit it either in a cramped position, or perhaps a foot further forward than he calculated, and you know what this means. It is not unusual, and of course is perfectly natural, for a cut lob to bound up very straight. It is not like the skimming cut across the net, with low trajectory, that I have referred to. It is dropping fairly straight with backward rotatory action, and no particular amount of forward impetus to fight against the back rotation, whereas the low cut which shoots has lots. This may be a small point. The difference between the scientific player and the ball hitter is that the former knows all the small points, as well as the others—and uses them.

I have not dealt yet with the importance of anticipating your opponent's return. With some this is quite a gift, and I have seen very remarkable instances of it, but those who have not the gift may, by using their eyes and brains carefully, soon acquire the habit. It is not enough to follow the flight of the ball from the very moment it leaves the racket of your opponent—if you can do more.

You must endeavour to get right down to his style. See how he "produces" his shots. Note the swing of his racket, the angle at which it is swung back, the way he stands to make each particular stroke, and the result in flight and bound, of that stroke. Note also the angle of his body to the net. If you do this carefully and well, you will soon know when his racket is at the extent of its backward swing, what its mission is, and when you have acquired this knowledge you have gained that

which will save you valuable time, and have laid the foundation of the habit of observation which will stand you in good stead in many a match. If you can see him playing before you have to deal with him, there cannot be any possible objection, and it will save you valuable time when you are facing him across the net.

I had an amusing instance of the value of anticipation once. A "colt" of mine was playing a match. His opponent had a fairly good fore-hand, and a straight back-hand shot which he always played with a kind of forward poke, which said plainly "Here it's coming, look out." He couldn't play a cross-court back-hand shot without slewing round exactly where the ball was going. My friend had not much knowledge of tactics and fed his opponent's fore-hand most kindly, until he was two sets "down." Between sets, I said, "I suppose you are trying to lose this match?"

"What do you mean? Of course I'm not," he said.

"Well, if that's so," I said, "leave his fore-hand alone. Whenever you see his back-hand poke coming, get right up to the net in the centre of the half-court. Don't bother about the rest. Consider your court is thirteen feet six inches wide, and you'll surely win, although he is two sets to love, for your condition is as good as his. Keep a good length down the *centre* of the back-hand half-court."

My friend could guess eggs when he saw the shells. He played the "centre theory" on the half-court and watched for the premonitory symptoms of that poke, and considered the court only half its

real width. He won that match by three sets to two, and I don't think his opponent has forgiven me yet, as he had a shrewd suspicion that I had a finger in the pie.

If you are hard pressed and your opponent is in position at the net, you should endeavour to lob over his head. If this is not convenient, and neither of the side lines, nor either of the cross-court passing shots I have referred to, is open, you should drive hard and low, preferably with plenty of lift, straight at him. This at all times, as I think I have before mentioned, is a good shot, as so few players get up close enough to play it before it has started "diving," and then, even if it be played it cannot be severely handled. I do not, however, advocate the indiscriminate use of this shot, as I always prefer to keep the ball away from my opponent as much as possible. I have seen so many shots which were apparently impossible for the striker-out to negotiate, not only returned but converted into winning aces, that I always like to see the ball go past my opponent.

On the same lines I would always say, have a try for everything, especially in a match, unless you need to conserve your energy. You never know exactly how a ball will bound—side, at billiards, and rotation, at tennis, are strange things—and sometimes it will wait for you in quite an accommodating manner, and you say, "If I had started soon enough, I could have got that;" besides, the moral effect on your adversary of turning losing shots into winning ones must not be forgotten. Never consider a half volley out of your reach until you have tried for and missed it.

It is a true saying that you never know what you can do until you try, and the performance of an absolute novice once filled me with admiration. It was a high dead-dropping lob on the base line. With the confidence born of—er—want of knowledge, he took on the smash. He missed the ball. As it bounded he let out at it a mighty swipe that would, had it hit it, have carried it into the next parish. Again he missed, and, swinging completely round with the force of his shot and no doubt somewhat fatigued by his previous efforts, he played the dropping ball quite soberly and returned it. This proves my contention. I am sure he didn't know he could do it until he tried—neither did I.

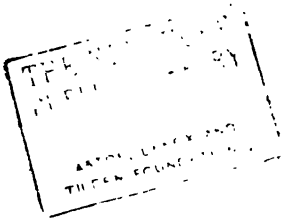
Never " ease up " when you are playing a match. It is frequently a fatal mistake, for the effect is twofold. When you want to get going again you find you cannot, and moreover your opponent has become heartened up, and is coming at you with renewed hope and vigour. If you are fit you should go right out as soon as you can.

A. W. GORE

PLAYING FORE-HAND VOLLEY WITH HIS DRIVE

FINISH OF STROKE

PLATE 24

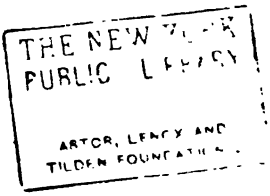


DOUBLES

GENERALLY speaking, the double game calls for more severity in the strokes than does the single.

The principal shots in a double are :—

The centre drive.—This is perhaps the most useful return in a double. You have no risk of going over the side line, and so long as you escape the server's partner and get your drive in before the service is quite in position, you have a good chance of scoring, and, moreover, if he has come up a bit wide you have the chance of going clean between your opponents. There is also always on your side the element of uncertainty which frequently exists as to who is to take such balls; moreover, not only do you, as I have already said, not take any risk as to your side line, but in the little time which is left to the player running up, to decide as to his shot, he will very frequently give you the benefit of the doubt as to your length, and if the return has been a very telling one you will get a weak answer or a miss. These are two strong points in its favour, for I don't care who the champion is, when he is on the run and meeting a fast drive with plenty of lift on it, he must be a wonder to decide within a yard where it will pitch, and I say without any hesitation, that man doesn't exist. Therefore one does not care to take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smash them most effectively, as is his duty. If, however, he cannot do that, or return the ball with medium pace good length, he must let it bound, and if his opponents are not in a strong position at the net, which they ought to be, he may smash it after it has risen, or lob it back. In volleying a dead-dropping lob, by which I mean one that is falling straight down, you must be, as with your service, practically under it for your stroke. If you attempt to play it too far in front of you, you will almost infallibly hit it down. This applies with almost equal force to any over-head volley, but in the matter of an approaching volley, especially if it has any upward tendency, you have slightly more margin, as its flight will to a slight extent counteract your error, whereas the flight of the lob will accentuate it.

The server should be under way almost before the ball has left his racket and should lose no time in getting to the net. You will ask how this may be accomplished. As a matter of fact you can actually be under way before the ball has left your racket and yet commit no foot fault. The Americans are great foot-faulters, but I saw some of them, whose service was unquestionable, so transfer their weight that at the moment of the impact of the racket on the ball their heads and shoulders were quite a foot inside the service line, with both feet still on the ground, and they were practically falling, but the moment the ball was hit the right foot was smartly brought forward; but they were actually under way before the ball was hit. I am a great believer in a double in the service down the centre of the court. A reference to Fig. 30 will show that this service

practically robs the striker-out of, or at least removes the sting from, two of his most important shots, the side-line drive and the sharp cross-court shot. I do not think this is sufficiently considered. The server should take all balls which come down the centre of the court and to his own side of that.

The server should vary his position at the base line as little as necessary. Personally, I stand about the middle of the single half-court, and I think it is not a bad base to operate from. In serving down the centre of the court I stand closer in. Your opponent soon takes this as an intimation that such a service is coming. Convince him by a sharp cross-court service that he is wrong.

The server's partner should stand close up to the net, as close indeed as practicable, without running the risk of hitting the net. He may retreat a little for the second service, which is generally weak, but if this has anything like a good length, unless he anticipates a lob, I cannot see any reason for going back very far. The server's partner should volley everything he can reach comfortably, without leaving his side line too exposed, and should attempt everything that looks as if it would not be within reach of his partner as he runs in. Before the return is made he should be in such a position as to cover his side line. At or immediately before the actual moment of the return, especially if it looks like a centre drive, he should open out a little, and even if he does not actually move very far, I think it is always well to be seen moving towards the centre. Moral effect is an important factor in lawn tennis, and the mere fact of his movement towards the

centre of the court will often make his opponent add a foot or two so as to get away from his anticipated volley, and so play more into the hands of the man running up. I am inclined now and again to be a bit "risky" in tempting my opponent to drive down the side line especially with his back-hand. You must remember that he has the highest part of the net to get over, also that he cannot do it every time with sufficient accuracy to pass in the small margin over "cover" which you will allow him, and that by taking some slight risks in this respect you will probably more than compensate for it by what you will "pick up" near the centre, but if you find it is not paying drop it at once. Of course, if your partner's service is down the middle of the court you can stand much wider from the side lines, as shown in Fig. 30, as a good side-line passing shot is then practically eliminated from your opponent's available returns. A is the server, and C the striker out. It will be seen that practically the extremes available to C for a drive are C E and C F, so that on a service of this nature the server's partner can certainly cover more of the net than on a cross-court service. I have very strong opinions on the value of this "centre theory." It seems to me, that, well carried out, it shuts up the angles of the court available for your opponent in a remarkable manner; moreover, in serving from right to left you are generally of course serving to your opponent's back-hand. I have a very strong objection, as a general rule, to a cross-court service which goes wide out at the side. This gives your opponent a chance of a passing shot down the side

line from outside the court into it, which naturally allows him a much wider margin, see D A, Fig. 27, and it also gives him the chance of a very telling cross-court drive over the lowest part of the net at a very sharp angle. You must not think it unimportant that the shot has the lowest portion of the net available for it in its natural return, for six inches counts in this game, especially if your ball is not a "climber."

I have before laid stress on the straight drive at the man at the net. It is frequently useful in a double, but don't tempt Providence by playing it too often, and when you do, try your best to make it straight at his middle. It is a very awkward ball to return effectively, as it so often catches him out of position.

There is some difference of opinion as to the position in which the striker-out's partner should stand. My own opinion is that he should be nearly always working with him in a line so that the base line and a line drawn through the two players shall be parallel to each other. The idea in my mind of a perfect double combination is that they form the front half of a pair of parallel rulers. The back half is fixed and is the base line. I cannot get it out of my head that, in the matter of getting to the net, the two men should be one as much as possible. Many players favour the idea of the striker-out's partner standing between the net and the service court for every service, except a very severe one, in which case they are inclined to think he should be back with his partner. Now, my idea of two players working together is that they are

G. A. CARIDIA

FINISH OF BACK-HAND CROSS-COURT VOLLEY

PLATE 26

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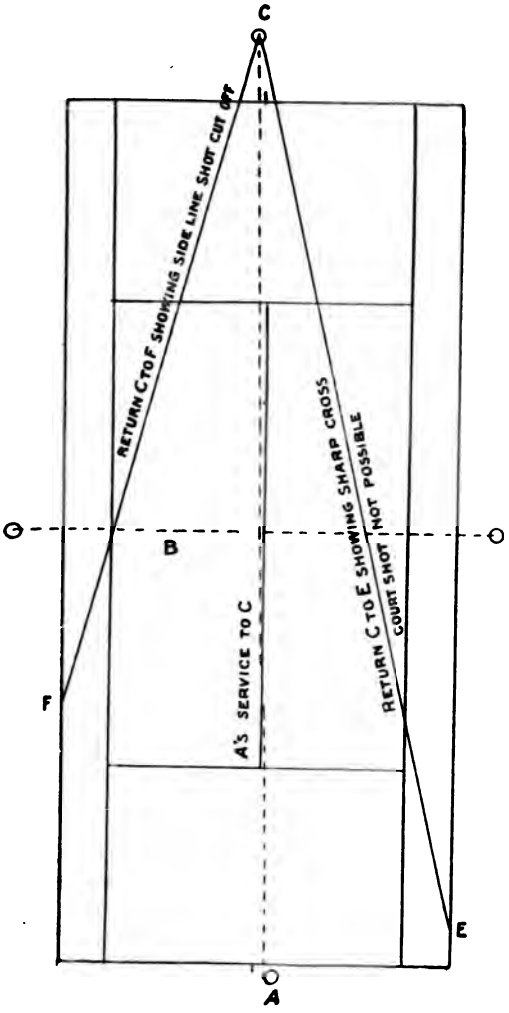

FIGURE 30.
Showing value of centring service

always to be in such a position that one of them can almost reach anything that may come along. It always seems to me that if the striker-out's partner is standing inside the service line it leaves a very nasty gap for cross-court returns, and exposes him to some most awkward shots at his feet. If the striker-out should try a side-line drive down his opponent's back-hand, and it be met by a good volley across court, there is quite a large gap for it to go through. I think such a position can only be defended by playing the game successfully from it, and it is not given to many to do this. If I were speaking purely from the standpoint of doubles, as played in England, I might view it with more favour, but I have seen tennis played in many lands, and particularly in the double game. Now listen to the heresy—I am not an admirer of English tactics. There is an absence of the brilliancy that I look for in doubles, and expect here more than anywhere, but am disappointed. I consider that English double players volley from too far back in the court. They are consequently more frequently than otherwise playing their volleys upwards, instead of, as they should be doing, downwards. Their leisurely trot to about three yards from the net amuses me. This is where I excuse the rusher. If your return or service is good enough to prevent your opponent making an accurate lob, why do you want to wait an inch further from the net than is necessary? He won't try to lob every time. Some of those he does try will be "good business" for you; some which out-lob you, you can get back to and return the compliment; so

I say, get right up and be in position to kill the ball by sharp cross-court volleys played downwards, instead of exchanging volleys from your feet which, from their length and lowness, you cannot make other than mere returns of, as it is impossible if you are far back to get the deadly cross-court angles of which I speak. As a matter of fact the Australians play a far more brilliant and attractive game than the English, and some day I hope to have the pleasure of seeing a team of them over here. They lose no time in getting to the net, and their volleying is excellent. However, as to this matter of position you have my views, and I have told you what many others think. Try them both, and do that which suits your combination best. In some respects your partner standing in while you are receiving is an advantage, provided you can get alongside him quickly enough after your return. He has not had to run and is ready and waiting, but if your return has not been good enough to enable you to race right up, then I reckon you have the worst of the deal at once.

As I said before, I cannot get out of my head the notion that in a perfectly combined double the two men should be one. My idea of this perfect combination is a big edition of the Siamese twins. In my imagination the two men are connected as by a rod. If one plays the shot the same intelligence rules the pair. If it is good the twins will follow it in (because they cannot be separated), and be in position still relatively the same distance apart, and the same distance from the net; in fact, in my mind I class them as one being at all times,

except when the server is attending to his business on the base line, and then of course he must effect the junction again as quickly as possible. If his service is good enough he should be able to get right up and take his volley before it is dropping much. Some of the Australians are very good at this. I feel certain that for the vast majority of players this game is the better, but you "pays your money and you takes your choice."

In clause 5 of Appendix C it will be seen that in the first edition of this work I stated that the most serious defect in English doubles is the position of the striker-out's partner. It is simply stupid, and I have at all times written strongly against it. In the last international contest for the Dwight Davis cup Messrs. Doherty abandoned the English position, and used the formation I have always insisted on. Twice they tried the English position for a short time, promptly paid the inevitable penalty, and wisely discarded it. This question of tactics may be considered absolutely settled against the English formation.

THE LATE MR. H. S. MAHONY

PLAYING A BACK-HAND SMASH

The ball behind his racket is passing across from another court

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MIXED DOUBLES

If my lady pupils should derive the benefit which I hope they will from my little lecture on volleying, I could easily leave this chapter out, for then this game would be nearly men's doubles. For fear, however, that they may not make such rapid progress as I could wish, I must make a few remarks on this game, a game from which I have derived much enjoyment.

Generally the lady plays in the fore-hand court and on the base line and the man at the net, although in the case of the present holders of the English Championship the positions were reversed, and the lady did the net work, while the man drove from the base line, and although it did look peculiar to me I must confess that I derived great pleasure from watching Miss Thomson's very fine exhibition of volleying. It only shows what a good eye and plenty of confidence can do, and all of my lady pupils must make up their minds to emulate her example and not say "Oh! I can't" any more.

When the man is serving, his partner, unless she is a good volleyer, must stand a little outside the base line. The man follows up his service. In a mixed I have sometimes been accused of "poaching" volleys. I always answer that it is a crime unknown to—at least—my tennis law. The

man in my opinion should never allow anything that he can get at to touch the ground. I am speaking now of the usual case of the lady playing on the base line.

The man must stand in on the lady's service to the opposing lady, and endeavour to kill her return. He should always be on the move, darting across and snapping everything he can possibly get hold of, until the opposing lady experiences those sensations which prompted a fair opponent to say to me once, "Oh! I *cannot* keep away from you," whereupon I said it was very nice to know it, but I should have preferred the communication in a more private place, where it would have been less embarrassing, and I could have more fittingly demonstrated my appreciation of the fact.

It is generally hard for the man to do much at the net while his partner is serving to the opposing man, but it is difficult for him to be more useful elsewhere. I always impress upon my lady partner to keep fairly well towards her side line, as at the net I can cover the greater portion of the base line, and if she does stand wide it means that she has so much less running, as the majority of returns are cross-court shots. I also firmly impress on the ladies the value to them of serving down the middle of the court fairly frequently, as that again shuts off the usual diagonal or cross-court shots to a great extent.

While her partner is receiving the service the lady should stand a little outside the base line and towards her side line, and if she has a weak backhand, when in that court, well over so as to cover

it as much as possible without leaving too big a gap on her fore-hand. As in men's doubles, so, and more so, in this game I say, apart from the fact of it being more "companionable," stay with your partner when she is receiving.

I have already stated what a liberal interpretation I put on "poaching." I shall go almost further. Unless you are playing against "one of the best" ladies you should take great risks of being passed on your side of the court as you dart across to intercept the opposing lady's returns to your partner. I carry it to an excess, but find it pays. I make my "base," to quote Mr. Baddeley, very near the middle of the court, and sometimes manage to reach and intercept returns by the single side-lines. I also take immense risks by running in on my service right across, in many cases beyond the middle of the court, and find it pays in the long run. In a few rare cases where it does not I do not take too long to learn my lesson. When badly beaten a few times I give it a rest. It may have been only a "flash in the pan," then I resume operations on the old lines. History does not always repeat itself. There are great reversals of form at cricket after the adjournment for afternoon "tea." After my adjournment from poaching—I don't admit the term—I frequently find the same thing. I have said in speaking of men's play to keep your opponent "guessing." It applies with much more force to a lady. Do not let her settle into her game if you can help it—how mean I feel! —worry her from the start—really this is awful!—give a few object lessons in the rotation of the ball,

as, for instance, now and again a back-hand cut, which to any but "top-notchers" is a perfect horror. The moral effect of the man's continual encroachments often makes the lady drive the ball out of court. It is astonishing how some men spoil a lady's game. I know one little scamp, a really good player too, who charges up to the net and does a few steps of a break-down. It comes off too. He has explained the theory of this shot to me, but I do not think you will require it; at the same time, while not being an advocate of gymnastics on the court, I must say that the value of "bustling" is more apparent, perhaps, in a combined than in any other class of game.

I am afraid I shall get into hot water if I continue to tell the men all the ladies' weak points, so I hasten to make amends. A fine shot to get away from the worrying man is a diagonal or cross-court lob. I say cross-court particularly because a low cross-court lob will be much more out of his reach than if you try to put it straight over his head, for he has to run across and then get under it to try and reach it, and moreover it is going back towards his partner, and even an inveterate aërial annexer, like myself, always has the moral effect of "woman" behind him when he thinks the lob may touch ground, and does not care "to go too far"—and get snubbed. It is a very useful shot, and a lady to play a good combined must be able to lob well, and indeed there is no reason why she should not, especially if she practises dividing the distance as I have recommended.

Now there is one thing that often worries ladies

in a combined, and that is when the wretched man opposite starts serving screws. They never seem to understand which way they are going to jump. I shall give you an infallible rule for circumventing the wiles of the deceiver.

Watch his racket and whichever way that swings you may rely upon it that the ball will break the opposite way, that is, if he swings from right to left the ball will break from left to right—this is what he nearly always does—and *vice versa*. When you have once grasped this fact all you need do is to take up your stand for the usual break, say four or six feet to your left of the line of flight of the ball, unless you intend to play it back-hand.

I have one most important piece of advice to give every lady player who would excel at this game. It is good advice in the game of life, but absolutely essential in mixed doubles, although neglect of it in the ordinary way often results in a perfect "combined," and that is, "Keep away from the man." It is feminine human nature to count the value of passing the man as worth about five times that of beating the lady, but the umpire only gives it the same value, and man is a tricky animal. You cannot always "pass" him. Sometimes of course you prefer not to.

LADIES' SINGLES

N.B.—Important to Men.

I HAVE very little to say under this heading because, as I have already told my lady readers, all that I have said in this book is for them, and I only insert this heading so that I may emphasise this fact and once again impress upon them the absolute necessity of acquiring the art of volleying if they desire to become first-class players, or indeed, to derive the highest amount of pleasure from the game that it is capable of affording them.

Reverting again to my suggestion for acquiring the rudiments of the art of volleying, I might amplify it to what seems almost an absurd extent, yet as it will help possibly one timid player to overcome her fear of the ball, I shall risk being considered absurd. I would risk more than that to see my lady pupils improving as I should wish them to in this respect. Some ladies absolutely fear the ball may hit and hurt them, nor in a measure is it to be wondered at. I have seen many a man do a discreet "duck" while yet there was a chance. If you really are afraid of the ball, if it is coming fast enough to hurt you, keep the blade of your racket between it and your face, and play it thus,

but you must be careful to have your racket very firm, so as not to let it be forced back, and if you can give your racket a smart push forward just as the ball is going to strike it you will soon get on. For all low volleys my idea is that the nearest approximation to this position, so far as regards the line of flight of the ball, is unquestionably theoretically the most perfect. Of course, directly you get confidence you will hold your racket as previously instructed. This, as I said before, may sound extreme, but so impressed am I with the importance to ladies of volleying from every point of view, science, enjoyment, and everything, that I would adopt any legitimate expedient to coax them up to the net.

I must impress upon the ladies the value of studying carefully the angles of the court. I don't think that I have touched emphatically upon this point before, but an ideal tennis player should in theory have eyes in the back of his head as well as in front. You will wonder what for, I suppose.

Well, it is this. The average player sees only what is in front of him, or a very small proportion of it, and plays to that. The man or woman who wants to get right up to the top of the tree should have in his or her mind's eye, as the rear-gazing optics are not available, exactly where the ball which is coming will land. Mentally he or she as it comes must follow it to where it will strike the ground. For this it is essential that a thorough knowledge of the angles of the court should be a part of the mental equipment of the true tennis player. The portion of the court behind him should

be as clearly defined in his mental vision as that in front is in his physical.

How many of us have ever given this a thought? How common a thing it is to see balls designedly allowed to pass drop well within the court, balls which, could your eyes have done a right-about-face, would not have gone a foot beyond your head before you would have clearly seen that they would fall into the court.

Apropos of this question, I will again refer my lady readers to Fig. 27, which deals with the centre theory. This, in a lady's single, will, to a good volleyer, be found of immense value.

If any of my readers are keen enough to follow up this question of angles I would suggest to them a series of experiments in them which should prove interesting. Let us take, for example, the centre theory in the single game. Mark a spot six or nine feet behind the centre of the base line. Have a number of pointed sticks six feet long. Let two of them have red tops, and the others white. The red tops are men. Go on to your base behind the line and get the best and shortest drive you can on to the side lines which will allow you on either side the widest effective passing shot you can make. Put in a white flag at each spot. Let your assistant stand at the net with another white flag. Go behind your base, and get all three flags in a line. Put in the flag at the net. Repeat the performance on the other side. Now put your red man in the centre of the two white flags at the net. Go and sit down and think over it. Then stand at the red flag and see how much of the net you can cover.

If you are still keen do the same thing with

W. V. EAVES

PLAYING LOW BACK-HAND VOLLEY

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regard to corner shots. Unless your brain is of a most lethargic nature, and in that case you won't be troubling with flags—you will find food for reflection here.

If you still have room for more theory, extend this process to doubles. If this were carefully studied out you would be astonished how accurate you would become in anticipating where a ball will pitch after it has passed you.

Call this theory run mad if you like. I have not yet given you a chess-board to play your shots off, as in golf and cricket, although I may in time.

It will assist you in taking your best position at the net in a wonderful degree when you have discovered how much of it you can cover on this centre theory, and will give you much increased confidence. It will show you, too, that wide corner shots, especially to a man who has a good quick-dropping cross-court shot, are by no means always the safest to go in on.

Some people will say this should have been in the men's singles division, but I am making no exceptions in their favour. If they don't read about your singles they will miss it, and you can play it off on them.

Before I close this chapter I must really compliment the ladies upon their great excellence in one of the most important branches of the game, their length. All through the last All England Championship meeting I was immensely impressed with it, the more so as generally speaking the men's was anything but good. It was quite a treat to watch the splendid length kept by players like Miss D. K. Douglass, Miss Ethel Thomson, and Miss Lowther.

LADIES' DOUBLES

I THINK I shall be excused if I dismiss this somewhat summarily. I am afraid I have already been terribly diffuse, but the beauties of the game and its mysteries are such that, when I start, my trouble is not to find what to say about it, but how to stop.

I need only say here, if you can volley well enough, and have energy and strength enough, play it like a men's double as nearly as you can. If only one of you has the above requirements, play it as much like a combined as you can, with the additional advantage of the "man" at the net having two poor creatures of the gentler sex to worry.

If neither of you have the above requirements, "go out on half-time" and put in the other half learning to volley. These are very unscientific general directions, but I believe that in the main they will be found to answer.

I thought I had quite exhausted my privileges as to advising about your dress. I find I have forgotten one important point, your headgear. If you wear anything at all, let it be of the smallest and lightest. How it has annoyed me to see a lady

careering about with a large straw hat hinged on to her head by a hat-pin, and lifting up and down every now and again like the lid of a shoe trunk! Take my advice, and if you look pretty in a cap wear one. If you do not, and I can hardly believe it possible, get the smallest, closest-fitting thing that you do look "all right" in, always remembering, if the sun annoys you, to have some slight protection for the eyes.

PRACTICE

It is all very well to write it, but I am afraid that of what I call practice there is practically none. If there were, the game would be played in a more scientific manner than it is.

Practice generally consists of "knocking up" with a friend or friends, and this is not of as much service as it should be, because the Englishman, in sport, has a considerable amount of the American characteristic of wanting to "beat" some one, and so instead of practising his scales he is doing Chopin—I didn't mean to pun; it was purely accidental. Pray pardon me.

My idea of practice is to get another wild enthusiast—unfortunately, or perhaps fortunately, they are rare—and to put in a portion of the time practising just length.

When you have had enough of that, toss each other up thirty or forty lobs to all parts of the court, and practise smashing them.

Then stand back and put in a quarter of an hour lobbing for length, remembering to divide your distance as suggested, and lob for the half-way house. If it doesn't pay, move the house on a bit; but I am convinced one should not have the idea of playing for the base line in one's mind when lobbing. It

should be the point in the atmosphere where you desire gravitation to overcome your force that should be the dominant idea in your mind.

Then stand at the net and volley a few drives. Step back a yard or two, and get your friend to put in a few quick-dropping drives with lots of lift, and see what you can do with them.

After this, experiment with the half-volley, especially on your back-hand, always remembering that this is your "blind shot," and that you must struggle with that wandering eye of yours.

I am still full of suggestions, but I don't want to put you off the game by urging too severe a course, only I can assure you that I know that so long as any scoring is being done you are not really practising. You are playing a fellow you can owe 15 to. You will experiment a little, perhaps, and he gets a lead on. Then he assumes a look of importance, as though it was no trouble to him, and says, "You're a bit off your game to-day." Then you say to yourself, "Am I? I'll show you." And you go after him. Practice is off for that day.

If you must play rests all the time and want real practice, there is only one way to get it. Do not call any score while you are trying shots and experimenting.

I am writing now for the average player.

Don't play too long at one time, especially if you are preparing for a match. In that case three or four good sets three or four days a week according to your strength should about do. Personally, I take much more, but I am very "greedy for work" of this description.

Get all the variety you can. Play as many different styles of players as are available. This is more important advice than appears on the face of it, and I will tell you why. After you have been playing fellows who rush up to the net all the time, and you then take on one who plays sound tactics, you will frequently find your length quite gone. You wonder how it is, and perhaps it will not strike you that when playing the volleyers, all you cared about was getting past them. You didn't care what happened then, and as a matter of fact the majority of your strokes would probably have been cross-court drives, slow passing shots, and low quick-dropping drives, many of them intended to "dive" over the net and strike the ground before he could get to them. This, of course, is not the best practice for length.

TOURNAMENT PLAY

It will be found wise to get your eye in before you start. From five to ten minutes should suffice. You should be the best judge as to how much you want.

Most writers give innumerable instructions about not giving up and so on. I have already "spread" myself to such an extent that I must play the "chop" stroke a little if I can here.

Generally speaking, if you want to win, take the thing seriously from the start. Go at your man like a bull-dog, worry him the whole time, never miss an opportunity of getting in at him; never count him, or yourself, beaten until the match is over; never lose your equanimity, for it is as valuable here as at golf; play your game for all you are worth all the while; in other words—and you must do it in this game as in the game of life if you desire to excel—play the man.

If you think you would like to kick the umpire, remember that you also have umpired, and probably escaped. If you can possibly avoid it without hurting any one's feelings, never accept an umpire in whose decision you have not confidence.

Do not lightly regard the suggestions of any one who knows something of the game, and who may be watching your match. Remember that it is an old

and true saying that "Onlookers see most of the game," and I don't care what champion you are, you cannot see as they do. Weigh carefully any such advice, no matter how trivial. I will give you an instance of what I mean. A clubmate of mine was playing a championship final. They started on new balls, of course. If there is one thing I am particular about, it is tennis balls. To me, a discoloured ball is an abomination. My friend won 6—2. They took new balls for the second set, and went on. My friend won again, 6—3. They started in the third set without changing the balls. Every one knows that the bound of a ball alters considerably after it has been played with for a set or two, and personally I always imagine I feel a difference in the weight. Imagination is a nuisance sometimes. Be that as it may, my friend's opponent took the third set, 6—2. The bound of the ball was suiting him; moreover the light was not improving, the balls were not absolutely spotless, my friend wears spectacles, and, worst of all, was beginning to pay surreptitious visits to his whisky flask, and the "dew" stood on his manly brow—when it didn't run. Judge of my horror when I saw them apparently going on to play with the same balls. In practice, it would have annoyed me; in a match, it revolted me, both from a tactical and an æsthetic point of view.

"Are you going to play with those things?" I asked.

"Yes," he replied.

"Oh, give him the match," I said.

He stood for a moment in thought, turned, went

to the umpire, and obtaining new balls, started. He got three love, and then just won the fourth set, 9—7, quite finished, whereas his opponent was just coming at him. The change of balls was in his favour. Theoretically his opponent of course should have been as well able to play with the new balls, but he was not, and I, who had nothing to do but sit and speculate, saw these things. You must not think I am bragging about this. I am not awfully proud of it, but it is just an instance of what little things will turn a match. Both players admitted that the change of the balls at that period meant the match.

You must not, of course, tender or expect to receive any assistance during the play. I refer to the period of rest between sets in all instances where I have mentioned cases of this sort. I am aware that some people have a sentiment against this. Personally I have none. I should not hesitate to ask my caddie's opinion at golf if I thought it likely to be of value, and in many contests, where skill and endurance are being tested, the player's friends or seconds at a convenient time advise him.

If you have to play a match, get a look at your opponent's game if you have the chance of doing so. Study it carefully as I have mentioned before when referring to anticipation. Then when you have "sized him up," if his game gives you any suggestion, make up your mind as to your tactics against him. Go into the field with your plan of campaign developed. If after you have launched the attack, you find it isn't working, it must be modified, or changed completely, as is necessary. I have fre-

quently seen matches won on premeditated tactics. You can think it out calmly while watching your man play another. It is a different thing to "size him up" across the net, and he may get away from you before you see the best course to adopt.

TRAINING

I SHALL not give you any elaborate instructions herein. I could write you another book on this subject if I started, so I must condense again.

If you are going for an important event, get a good trainer if you can afford it. If you cannot, a friend and a book on training will be some assistance.

For all ordinary events, you need not make a martyr of yourself. Do not smoke much. Eat good solid food. I have an enormous respect for beefsteak not too well done. Ease "John Barleycorn" in his work.

If you are playing a very hard match and feel the want of something, take a little coca wine, some whisky and water, or any one of a dozen other similar luxuries, but don't drink any more while playing than you can possibly avoid. You should never be hungry while you are playing. Regulate your meals if you can so that you have a fair rest afterwards before you start your match.

I have a strong idea that for a tournament extending over a course of, say, five or six days, it is no detriment for a player to be "short of a gallop" or two. If he is too well wound up, he may become stale, but this to a large extent depends upon the man.

UMPIRING AND MISCELLANEOUS

To be a good umpire it is essential above everything, except good eyesight, that you should know the rules and laws of lawn tennis. This may seem a superfluous statement. I assure you it is not. Wherever I go, I find blind people who know little or nothing about the game cheerfully taking this important position on.

I have found that you may umpire almost perfectly, and yet run no serious risk of being harassed by the players as to your views on the subject of irrigation. On the other hand, you may make a trifling error, and it is any odds that one of the quartette will be unable to prevent you hearing that he has a horrid suspicion that there is hereditary insanity in your family.

If an umpire knows his law and his business, he has only one other thing to remember, and that is that while he is in that chair, on questions of fact he is as absolute as the Czar of Russia.

To the linesman I shall be brief but emphatic. Please remember that your duty is to call sharply and distinctly immediately the ball is out, or a fault is made, and never, upon any account, call "Right," or "In," as this will advertise to those who understand these things that you are not quite up to date.

Moreover, it is a most exasperating habit for the players. Sit with your back to the sun, right in line with the line you are taking, and never dream of taking two lines. I have been repeatedly asked to, but invariably reply, that if I can do one to the complete satisfaction of the players I shall almost have achieved a record.

Both players and umpire sometimes appeal to the linesman as to "how" a ball is. Such an appeal, if the linesman knows his duty—and if he does not he should not be there—is superfluous. His silence is a decision that it is good.

ENGLISH AND AUSTRALASIAN TENNIS COMPARED

I HAVE been much amused in England by the negligently charitable attitude of some of the players when speaking of Australasian tennis. It seems to breathe the sentiment, "We are the tennis players. Run away, little boy. We have nothing to learn."

The same mental condition existed many years ago in regard to cricket. It is not so apparent now.

Before long, when I have managed to work the matter up a little more, I hope to give our English players a taste of the Colonial boys' quality.

Australasian tennis has been judged by the performances of a stray New Zealander, who found his way to London, played in the Championship of England, was beaten three sets to one by A. W. Gore, who afterwards won the Championship, and who himself told me that he had to go for it against the Colonial player; and by the form of an English player who won a Championship at Sydney. Both these performances are unreliable as indications of the capabilities of Colonial players.[1]

[1] A year after this book was first published, the pioneer Australasian team came home. The accuracy of this statement, which was considerably criticised at the time of publication, was, as all lawn tennis players know, fully established.

It has, I think, been admitted that the Australians, if not so now, were when they tackled us first at cricket, superior to us in resource. It is in just the quality expressed by that word, which sounds so vague and yet is so expressive, that I think many of the leading Colonial players exceed the capabilities of the Englishmen.

The Englishman's stupendously calm self-satisfaction, that is so intensely irritating to some people, is, when one can view it in the right light—which apparently his neighbours find it hard to do—sublime, and entitled to the greatest admiration. He does not need to "blow," he does not need even to ask: "Would the Colonial boys have a chance with us?" The thing is absurd. He knows his own unassailable supremacy in everything from his Navy to Free Trade, excepting always of course cricket. He does not bother to exert any introspective, analytical powers—if he has any—on his own position. He knows it is so: that is enough.

This is not business—it is not even polite—but, as the Frenchman is alleged to have said of the charge of the Light Brigade, it is magnificent.

I could pick an Australasian team of eight or ten almost any day, who would make things very interesting here. They know a little about tennis, I can assure you. I would take four of their best single players against four of England's, and the odds would be evens.

Against the Singles Champion of the World, I would put up a Sydney lad whose name is not known here, and the spectators would get fun for their money. Best and best at singles, so long as you

don't take too many, and swamp the Colonials by numbers, a very small handicap would bring them together. Why should it be otherwise? They can do it at cricket, why not at tennis? They are the same race, living perhaps under better and healthier conditions.

I admire Australian double play immensely. They go for their shot every time, and they never lose any time in getting to the net. Despite anything any one has to say on the subject, my opinion is that the only gait suitable for getting up from the base line to the net is a gallop. It is no good "trotting" up unless you can "break two minutes." Where the Australians excel is that they make their strokes severe enough to risk the lob, then they race for the net, and stay right up against it, which in my humble opinion is the place. You must get beaten sometimes, but it is very hard to keep lobbing perfectly, and, moreover, most men think it beneath them to keep on lobbing, and they give you a chance now and again. I am very strong on this point. I think it makes all the difference in the beauty of the game. If I agreed with playing your volleys from your feet, I should immediately advocate putting that other yard on the court, but I don't, and never will.

The main difference between Australian and English tennis is that here the men live at tournaments in the season, and in covered courts out of it—figure of speech, you'll understand; big mixture of fact, though.

In Australasia they may get a week's big tournament play in a year.

H. S. SCRIVENER

PLAYING LOW BACK-HAND VOLLEY

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ASTOR, LENOX AND
TILDEN FOUNDATIONS.

Give me a good team of Australasians, such as I could pick, and let me acclimatise them here for a few months, with plenty of tournament play, and there are more unlikely things than that the Messrs. Doherty would have to go to the land of the Golden Fleece tennis ash-hunting.[1]

It is not entirely out of place here to mention while on the subject of Colonial physical prowess that it is an ascertained fact that the Australians can play cricket; that the year before last a New Zealander, Mr. George Smith, held the 120 yards Hurdles Championship of England; that another New Zealander, Tom Sullivan, was for three years the Champion Oarsman of the world; that an Australian, George Towns, is now Champion Oarsman of the world; and to wind up with, that a four-legged New Zealander, Moifaa, as great-hearted a 'chaser as ever looked through bridle, belonging to a New Zealand owner, Mr. S. H. Gollan—worthy to own him too—won the Liverpool Grand National Steeplechase not long ago. "Spencer Gollan," as he is familiarly termed, is an ex-golf champion of New Zealand, and he, with Tom Sullivan and George Towns aforesaid, now holds the record on the river from Oxford to Putney. I forget how many hours they knocked off it, but I know "old times" looked silly when they finished.

Really they are, like their English brethren, hard to kill.

[1] A year after this was written Messrs. A. W. Dunlop and N. E. Brookes defeated Messrs. R. F. and H. L. Doherty, at Queen's Club, West Kensington, after a hard five-set match.

I hope you will pardon my little Transatlantic ebullition, but the fact is that we all belong to the same dear old Home, are all actuated by the same keen love of sport that always has been, and I hope always will be, one of the grandest, healthiest and best features of our national life, and if "Papa Bull" does assume, as a fact beyond argument, that he is still "one too many" for his children, who shall really, in earnest, find fault with him? Are we not every day in our own little homes doing the very same thing? Well then, let it rest at that, but some day, Papa, I shall bring the boys to "see" you.

Reverting again to the respective play of the Australasians and the English, and my remark as to the greater resource of the Australians, it was I think in bowling that good old Trumble showed England a wrinkle or two. It is in the Englishmen's deliveries that I noticed particularly room for improvement. I cannot help thinking that the service is very stereotyped. There is not enough attention paid to varying the pace, length, spin, and placing of the service. Again, their length (I am speaking of last year's Championship form) was certainly not too good, and was undoubtedly inferior to that of the ladies.

They are not quick enough in getting up to the net, and indeed in my opinion, generally speaking, do not run to the right place, as they slack off too soon, and have to play the ball dropping all the time. Even the Dohertys offend greatly in this respect.

I did not see at Wimbledon last year a back-hand off the ground equal to at least three I know in

Australasia. The back-hand drive, as I am accustomed to seeing it played, seems a lost art, if indeed it were ever known. There is a strong and marked tendency with many players to reduce the game to pat-ball.

When, however, I come to compare the ladies, I must capitulate at once. This I assure my fair readers is absolutely genuine. They are much further away from the Colonial ladies than are the men. England, of course, with her large population has an immense advantage, and her ladies get so accustomed to tournament play that they do not in many cases seriously feel the strain. I was at the Inter-State Tournament between Victoria and New South Wales in 1905 while on a visit to the latter State. I saw the final for the Ladies' Championship. I had seen the runner-up playing before. In the final, her condition of nervousness was painful. I never felt so sorry for any one. She totally failed to do herself justice. Plenty of tournament play and coaching is what Australasian ladies want. The material is quite good enough: it only wants working up. The lady I have referred to, the runner up for the Ladies' Championship, has all the necessary strokes, mixes her game, and volleys nicely. Well coached, she would make a fine player. The winner played a very solid game, imparting a large amount of cut, which is nearly always rather demoralising to ladies, to her stroke.

PERSONALITIES

I AM afraid nature was in one respect at least unkind to me. She made me a notice-takin' creature, and later on, when I met and became rather intimate with Sherlock Holmes, the habit grew and I took pains to cultivate it. I soon tired of Holmes, though. He was a patronising wretch, and his "My dear Vaile, have you read my monograph on the value of silkworms for producing clues in the detection of crime," on so so, palled after a while. It was a monologue on monographs, but I must give him his due; the habit of observation remained. Added to this, I was always, and am still, hypercritically inclined, indeed I come from a quarter of the globe where one is not readily stirred to enthuse, unless the object really be worthy of enthusiasm—and then it's an awfu' job to start it going with anything less than a Boer War or a football match. These remarks are by way of apology for criticising the "eminent men" whose names appear hereafter, but as it is all in the interest of sport, and they are all in the truest and best sense sportsmen, I feel sure that if they should desire any satisfaction, they will do nothing worse than "take it out of me" across a net—also they must remember that he who climbs high is easily seen—even in the tennis world.

In dealing with individuals one naturally takes H. L. Doherty first. It is his due. I may say at once that of all the men I have seen of late years, H. L. Doherty the most nearly fills my idea of a perfect singles-player, and yet I think his tactics are unsound in some ways. I am not one who worships success, and a man may be champion of the world—and yet have serious blemishes in his game. Mr. Doherty is neither "a wild rusher" nor "a base-line wanderer," nor yet can I call him an absolutely judicious combination of the two. He goes in on every service nearly, on many which I could not pass as having sting or length enough to justify such a proceeding were his opponent his equal, and even as it is he is too often passed. I cannot help thinking that both in singles and doubles he stays too far away from the net. Certainly he plays low volleys, too many of them, from his feet with a lovely stroke and great precision, but such a shot cannot have any telling angle or pace on it. If he were up against his equal, and had to, as he then would, choose his opportunity to go up, and was taught by a few object lessons that waiting a little inside the service line is not the best place in the court, I should think he would go very near to playing perfect tennis. His tennis virtues are too well known to the public to require any remarks from me. I may, however, say that the secret of his very fine game is undoubtedly timing and the perfectly harmonious action of body and limbs. He gets every ounce out of his stroke without much apparent effort. He makes his body do its share of the work. How few really do this, or even realise its import-

ance! Imagine trying to hit a man with your body still and using only arm action. You want your body to be in your work, particularly in smashing. Just here, it is interesting to note that although Messrs. Doherty strongly advise players to "make your opponents volley up; *be yourself* ALWAYS *in a position to hit down,*" there are probably no two players in the world who play more ascending volleys.

However, this advice is the essence of volleying wisdom, and the latter sentence is the quintessence, for to carry it out you must be where I am always insisting that you shall go, directly you get a good chance, and that is *right up at the net.*

I had nearly forgotten to refer to Mr. Doherty's length. I was very disappointed. He rarely pitched a ball within four feet of the base line, indeed so noticeable was this that I asked him if he had any object in keeping that length, when he assured me that he considered it was good enough. I do not. If he kept that length against his equal, his opponent would have so much less ground to cover every time to get into position at the net. This would mean a lot of saving in exertion in five sets, let alone the tactical advantages. I noticed also that his returns were generally pretty straight down the court. It seemed to me he was taking no risks, either with the side lines or the base lines, and this is where the centre theory must save you many an ace. You only have length to worry about.

These criticisms were written, as is well known to many tennis players, long before the Covered Courts Championships were decided. The final for the

singles quite proved—to my satisfaction at least—the soundness of my contentions about H. L. Doherty's tactics. On the day he met Ritchie he was undoubtedly off his game. This brought him into Ritchie's class, and Ritchie's tactics on the day being quite as good as the Champion's, it was anybody's match, and had Ritchie possessed the temperament of the winner the result might even have been the other way.[1]

I am dealing very plainly with H. L. Doherty's theory. To praise his execution when in form is to gild refined gold, but even at the risk of being thought severe I will maintain that that execution is worthy of better theory and tactics.

I have not said anything about demeanour in court and so on. To those who play tennis it should be unnecessary, but there are a few who might with much advantage take an example from H. L. Doherty, always, outwardly, at least, unruffled, calmly accepting wrong decisions and allowing nothing to worry him. This tells; make no mistake about it. Getting savage is only providing cheap amusement for the gallery, and putting yourself off your game.

I hope it will not be thought that I am dealing too severely with Mr. Doherty's game; I am taking him as the ablest and most finished practical exponent of the single game that I know, and I am dissecting that game for the benefit of the game.

Anything I can say of H. L. Doherty's game I

[1] Many months after this was published Mr. Ritchie fairly and squarely beat Mr. H. L. Doherty at Queen's Club mainly on account of the defects in the champion's tactics which I have referred to.

think I might almost say for his brother, R. F. Doherty's. His strokes are all very fine, and considering his grip it is a wonder—to me—how he gets them. His service is very good, and his second service the best I know. I have not seen him "all out" in a single. I should like to see the two brothers having a "real go." I would miss my luncheon for it—if necessary.

R. F. and H. L. Doherty form without doubt a very fine combination. I think, however, that even more in the double than in the single is the low-volleying defect noticeable. The answer may be, "It is their game, and it has succeeded." This does not bother me a trifle. What I am worrying about is, whether it is the right one or not, and the one most suitable for the majority of players, and most calculated to make the game brilliant, scientific, and most popular; and frankly I do not think it is. It is apparent that the Dohertys are at present a little away from the others, and I could not get it out of my head that they, as indeed is natural, take liberties with the game.[1]

F. L. Riseley was runner-up for the Championship in 1905. I was much pleased with his play, although he spoiled his back-hand to á great extent by playing the shot off the wrong leg. He mixes his game well, generally speaking, although he very

[1] It was precisely this taking of liberties, particularly in the matter of the striker-out's partner standing near the net, that cost them their match against the Australian pair. They did not reproduce this error against the Americans Messrs. Ward and Wright, and just won after a hard five-set match. Playing in their usual formation they would certainly have lost the match.

often neglects a good opening, and then goes up on an inferior one. He has a fine fast first service, but does not vary it much.

A. W. Gore is a base-line player. His strong point is his fore-hand drive, which off a high bounding ball is very fine. He won the Championship of England in 1901. He rarely or never volleys, for which I can hardly forgive him, as under compulsion and force of expostulation I have seen him execute some paralysing smashes from the three-quarter court, and when forced to in a double he acquits himself really well, using his fore-hand drive frequently and with great effect as a volley.

S. H. Smith is another player of the same stamp as Gore. He has a great fore-hand drive. He rarely volleys, but when he does, uses his drive with great effect.

Smith and Riseley have the distinction of being the only pair who have ever beaten the Dohertys for the Doubles Championship of England. They annexed this event in 1902.

Mr. E. G. Meers, who won the Covered Courts Championship of England in 1892, does not now take an active part in tournament play, although he is still quite a "tough proposition." He did not start lawn tennis until late in life, but he brought to bear on it an amount of thought and a rare insight into the game, which few have either the power or the application to do. The result was that he developed a very fine game, and to this day he stands out in my mind as one of the very finest tacticians, if not indeed the finest, that I have ever seen. To see him working for his opportunity, and then when

it came, getting in and settling matters, was quite sufficient to answer the question, "Is tennis a 'brainy' game?"

H. S. Mahony has probably been playing first-class tennis longer than any other tennis player, and he is still capable of putting up a fine game. Mahony's great stroke is his back-hand smash, but he has lots of others with plenty of theoretical knowledge to back them up. He is a big man, but handles his weight well, and uses it in his strokes. (Since this was written the great Irish player met with an unfortunate accident which caused his death.)

G. A. Caridia, Champion of Wales, is without doubt the finest half-volleyer in England. He also plays a rising ball very well. He has ascertained the fact that a rising ball requires the blade of the racket to be at a suitable angle to correct the ascending tendency; many of his half-volleys are wonderful, and, always a pretty stroke, he makes it in many cases a beautiful one. He plays a good back-hand volley but his service is not too strong. He rarely if ever takes advantage of the time he gains by his half-volley to be by so much nearer to the net. This, of course, considerably discounts the value of the stroke.

George W. Hillyard, after a considerable absence from the list of champions, joined the roll of honour again in 1905 by annexing, with H. L. Doherty, the Covered Courts Doubles Championship of England. He was hampered by a weak leg, the result of sciatica, but nevertheless he played a good game. He went for his smashes in a determined manner, and put many of them away in a style that pleased

me very much, albeit he could not, on account of his leg, use his body weight with advantage. His service is distinctly good and he evidently understands the value of centring it. He very rarely lost his service during the tournament. His great reach makes him very difficult to get away from. I have not had the pleasure of seeing him play a single, but from his strokes should judge that he would play a fine game.

M. J. G. Ritchie is a curiously even player. There are no very pronounced faults in his game, neither is there much to call for special mention, yet on occasions he puts up a very fine game. His smash from behind the service line is nearly all arm work and consequently never severe. With a greater knowledge of tactics and a cultivation of that essential to success in tennis, equanimity, Ritchie might easily be classed A1 at Lloyd's.

There are many other fine players whose games are quite worthy of mention, but space forbids, and I have here just mentioned the few who have occurred to me, as being of special interest by reason of their achievements, and on account of special strokes.

I must not weary you with a long dissertation on the subject of American tennis players. While in New York recently, I saw Grant and Le Roy win the Covered Court Doubles Championship, which they have now taken three years in succession. Grant also won the singles, making his third successive year. Their opponents were Beals-Wright and Little. It was a good five-set go. Grant and Le Roy got right up to the net, and lost no time in doing it; in fact, Grant, although serving perfectly

fairly, practically is half-way through his first stride before the ball leaves his racket. Beals-Wright and Little played a good game. Beals-Wright's low volleying was very fine. Messrs. Doherty consider he is the best low volleyer in the States, and I should think he is, yet so far as I could see he never took a low volley with his racket-head above his wrist.

THE ROLL OF HONOUR

I. COVERED COURT CHAMPIONSHIPS

ENGLAND

CHAMPIONS

1885	H. F. Lawford	1896	E. W. Lewis
1886	E. L. Williams	1897	W. V. Eaves
1887	E. W. Lewis	1898	W. V. Eaves
1888	E. W. Lewis	1899	W. V. Eaves
1889	E. W. Lewis	1900	A. W. Gore
1890	E. W. Lewis	1901	H. L. Doherty
1891	E. W. Lewis	1902	H. L. Doherty
1892	E. G. Meers	1903	H. L. Doherty
1893	H. S. Mahony	1904	H. L. Doherty
1894	H. S. Mahony	1905	H. L. Doherty
1895	E. W. Lewis	1906	H. L. Doherty

LADY CHAMPIONS

1890	Miss Jacks	1898	Miss Austin
1891	Miss M. Shackle	1899	Miss Austin
1892	Miss M. Shackle	1900	Miss T. Lowther
1893	Miss M. Shackle	1901	Mrs. Hillyard
1894	Miss Austin	1902	Miss T. Lowther
1895	Miss C. Cooper	1903	Miss T. Lowther
1896	Miss Austin	1904	Miss D. K. Douglass
1897	Miss Austin	1905	Miss H. Lane
		1906	Miss D. K. Douglass

DOUBLES CHAMPIONS

1890	G. W. Hillyard and H. S. Scrivener
1891	G. W. Hillyard and H. S. Scrivener
1892	E. G. Meers and H. S. Mahony
1893	E. G. Meers and H. S. Mahony
1894	E. G. Meers and H. S. Mahony
1895	W. V. Eaves and C. H. Martin
1896	W. V. Eaves and C. H. Martin
1897	H. A. Nisbet and G. Greville
1898	R. F. Doherty and H. L. Doherty
1899	R. F. Doherty and H. L. Doherty
1900	R. F. Doherty and H. L. Doherty
1901	R. F. Doherty and H. L. Doherty
1902	R. F. Doherty and H. L. Doherty
1903	R. F. Doherty and H. L. Doherty
1904	H. L. Doherty and G. W. Hillyard
1905	H. L. Doherty and G. W. Hillyard
1906	R. F. Doherty and H. L. Doherty

MIXED DOUBLES CHAMPIONS

1898	R. F. Doherty and Miss C. Cooper
1899	R. F. Doherty and Miss C. Cooper
1900	R. F. Doherty and Miss C. Cooper
1901	G. W. Hillyard and Mrs Hillyard
1902	H. L. Doherty and Miss T. Lowther
1903	H. L. Doherty and Miss T. Lowther
1904	G. Greville and Mrs. Greville
1905	R. F. Doherty and Miss Eastlake Smith
1906	A. F. Wilding and Miss D. K. Douglass

WALES

CHAMPIONS

1893	J. H. Crispe
1894	W. S. N. Heard
1895	R. F. Doherty
1896	R. F. Doherty
1897	R. F. Doherty
1898	H. S. Mahony
1899	G. A. Caridia
1900	G. A. Caridia
1901	G. A. Caridia
1902	G. A. Caridia
1903	R. B. Hough
1904	G. A. Caridia
1905	T. M. Mavrogordato
1906	G. A. Caridia

LADY CHAMPIONS

1896 Mrs. Pickering	1901 Miss M. E. Robb
1897 Miss Dyas	1902 Miss L. Clarke
1898 Miss Dyas	1903 Miss Garfit
1899 Miss M. E. Robb	1904 Miss V. Pinckney
1900 Miss M. E. Robb	1905 Miss M. B. Squire

1906 Mrs. Curtis Whyte

FRANCE

CHAMPIONS

1895 A. Vacherot	1901 G. M. Simond
1896 M. F. Goodbody	1902 M. J. G. Ritchie
1897 M. F. Goodbody	1903 M. Decugis
1898 G. M. Simond	1904 M. Decugis
1899 M. J. G. Ritchie	1905 M. J. G. Ritchie
1900 G. A. Caridia	1906 A. F. Wilding

LADY CHAMPIONS

1897 Mlle. Masson	1905 Miss Warden
1898–1904 [No competition]	1906 Miss Warden

DOUBLES CHAMPIONS

1901 G. M. Simond and G. A. Caridia
1902 G. M. Simond and G. A. Caridia
1903 M. Decugis and J. Worth
1904 M. J. G. Ritchie and G. M. Simond
1905 A. Vacherot and M. Germot
1906 M. J. G. Ritchie and A. F. Wilding

UNITED STATES

CHAMPIONS

1898 L. E. Ware	1902 J. P. Paret
1899 L. E. Ware	1903 W. C. Grant
1900 L. E. Ware	1904 W. C. Grant
1901 H. Ward	1905 E. B. Dewhurst

1906 W. C. Grant

Doubles Champions

1902	W. C. Grant and Le Roy
1903	W. C. Grant and Le Roy
1904	W. C. Grant and Le Roy
1905	H. F. Allen and T. R. Pell
1906	H. H. Hackett and F. B. Alexander

STOCKHOLM

	Open		Swedes only
1900	J. M. Flavelle . . .	1900	G. Setterwall
1901	F. W. Payn . . .	1901	G. Setterwall
1902	M. J. G. Ritchie . . .	1902	G. Setterwall
1903	M. J. G. Ritchie . . .	1903	P. Qvarnstrom
1904	M. J. G. Ritchie . . .	1904	G. Setterwall
1905	W. Bostrom . . .	1905	W. Bostrom
1906	G. Setterwall . . .	1906	[No competition]

OXFORD *v.* CAMBRIDGE

1881	Oxford won by	14 matches to 4
1882	,,	13 ,, 5
1883	,,	12 ,, 6
1884	Cambridge ,,	15 ,, 3
1885	,,	12 ,, 6
1886	,,	16 ,, 2
1887	A draw. Nine matches all	
1888	Abandoned after one hour's play	
* 1889	A draw	Cambridge 12 matches Oxford 5 ,,
1890	Cambridge won by	11 matches to 7
* 1891	A draw	Cambridge 11 matches Oxford 7 ,,
1892	Cambridge won by	17 matches to 1
1893	,,	12 ,, 6
1894	,,	12 ,, 6
1895	,,	17 ,, 1
1896	,,	18 ,, 0
1897	,,	13 ,, 5
1898	,,	10 ,, 8

* These matches were apparently counted as drawn by arrangement. By the ordinary method of scoring in matches, Cambridge won on each occasion.

1899

Played at Queen's Club on June 31 and July 1.

Singles

Oxford won by 6 matches to 3.

TEAMS.—*Oxford*: P. G. Pearson, H. R. Fussell, and A. N. Dudley. *Cambridge*: A. M. Mackay, N. J. Waller, and M. F. Day.

Doubles

Cambridge won by 5 matches to 4.

TEAMS.—*Cambridge*: A. M. Mackay and M. F. Day; N. J. Waller and D. G. Fry; G. C. Glenny and A. C. Hudson. *Oxford*: P. G. Pearson and H. R. Fussell; B. Wood-Hill and W. Horton; A. N. Dudley and G. L. W. Hill.

RESULT.—Oxford won by 10 matches to 8.

1900

Played at Queen's Club on July 3 and 4.

Singles

Oxford won by 5 matches to 4.

TEAMS.—*Oxford*: P. G. Pearson, H. R. Fussell, and B. Wood-Hill. *Cambridge*: G. C. Glenny, D. G. Fry, and F. Salzmann.

Doubles

Cambridge won by 5 matches to 4.

TEAMS.—*Cambridge*: G. C. Glenny and D. G. Fry; F. Salzmann and T. A. Cock; G. E. Sunderland Taylor and S. M. Porter. *Oxford*: P. G. Pearson and B. Wood-Hill; H. R. Fussell and C. F. Ryder; H. Plaskitt and T. D. Rudkin.

RESULT.—A draw; 9 matches all.

1901

Played at Queen's Club on July 3 and 4.

Singles

Oxford won by 5 matches to 4.

TEAMS.—*Oxford*: P. G. Pearson, W. C. Crawley, and H. Plaskitt. *Cambridge*: D. G. Fry, F. Salzmann, and F. W. Argyle.

Doubles

Oxford won by 6 matches to 3.

TEAMS.—*Oxford*: P. G. Pearson and H. Plaskitt; W. C. Crawley and P. T. Oyler; B. Wood-Hill and C. F. Ryder. *Cambridge*: D. C. Fry and F. Salzmann; F. W. Argyle and J. C. Fisher; J. R. L. Nicholls and E. Wells.

RESULT.—Oxford won by 11 matches to 7.

1902

Played at Queen's Club at West Kensington on July 1 and 2. After first round match completed on covered ground owing to wet weather.

RESULT.—Cambridge won by 5 matches to 4.

1903

Played at Queen's Club on July 6 and 7.
Oxford won by 14 matches to 4.

1904

Played at Queen's Club on July 5 and 6.
Cambridge won by 10 matches to 8.

1905

Played at grounds of Berrylands L.T.C., Surbiton, on June 23 and 24.

Singles

Cambridge won by 5 matches to 4.

Doubles

Cambridge won by 7 matches to 2.

1906

Played at grounds of the Oxford University Club on June 15 and 16.

Singles

Oxford won by 6 matches to 3.

Doubles

Oxford won by 5 matches to 1. Third round not played on account of bad weather.

SUMMARY.—Of 26 competitions Cambridge has won 14 and Oxford 7. Four have been drawn, and one (1888) was abandoned after an hour's play. In Singles Cambridge has won 128 matches as against 96 to Oxford, and in Doubles Cambridge has won 137 matches to Oxford's 84. Total matches: Cambridge, 265; Oxford, 180.

II. LIST OF CHAMPIONS

ENGLAND

CHAMPIONS

1877	S. W. Gore	1892	W. Baddeley
1878	P. F. Hadow	1893	J. Pim
1879	J. T. Hartley	1894	J. Pim
1880	J. T. Hartley	1895	W. Baddeley
1881	W. Renshaw	1896	H. S. Mahony
1882	W. Renshaw	1897	R. F. Doherty
1883	W. Renshaw	1898	R. F. Doherty
1884	W. Renshaw	1899	R. F. Doherty
1885	W. Renshaw	1900	R. F. Doherty
1886	W. Renshaw	1901	A. W. Gore
1887	H. L. Lawford	1902	H. L. Doherty
1838	E. Renshaw	1903	H. L. Doherty
1889	W. Renshaw	1904	H. L. Doherty
1890	W. J. Hamilton	1905	H. L. Doherty
1891	W. Baddeley	1906	H. L. Doherty

All Comers' Singles

	Winner	Second
1877	S. W. Gore	W. Marshall
1878	P. F. Hadow	W. Erskine
1879	J. T. Hartley	V. 'St. Leger'
1880	H. F. Lawford	O. E. Woodhouse
1881	W. Renshaw	R. T. Richardson
1882	E. Renshaw	R. T. Richardson
1883	E. Renshaw	D. Stewart
1884	H. F. Lawford	C. W. Grinstead
1885	H. F. Lawford	E. Renshaw
1886	H. F. Lawford	E. W. Lewis
1887	H. F. Lawford	E. Renshaw
1888	E. Renshaw	E. W. Lewis
1889	W. Renshaw	H. S. Barlow
1890	W. J. Hamilton	H. S. Barlow
1891	W. Baddeley	J. Pim
1892	J. Pim	E. W. Lewis
1893	J. Pim	H. S. Mahony
1894	W. Baddeley	E. W. Lewis
1895	W. Baddeley	W. V. Eaves
1896	H. S. Mahony	W. V. Eaves
1897	R. F. Doherty	W. V. Eaves
1898	H. L. Doherty	H. S. Mahony
1899	A. W. Gore	S. H. Smith
1900	S. H. Smith	A. W. Gore
1901	A. W. Gore	C. P. Dixon
1902	H. L. Doherty	M. J. G. Ritchie
1903	F. L. Riseley	M. J. G. Ritchie
1904	F. L. Riseley	M. J. G. Ritchie
1905	N. E. Brookes	S. H. Smith
1906	F. L. Riseley	A. W. Gore

Lady Champions

1884	Miss Maud Watson	1889	Mrs. Hillyard
1885	Miss Maud Watson	1890	Miss Rice
1886	Miss Bingley	1891	Miss Dod
1887	Miss L. Dod	1892	Miss Dod
1888	Miss L. Dod	1893	Miss Dod

LADY CHAMPIONS (*continued*)

1894	Mrs. Hillyard	1900	Mrs. Hillyard
1895	Miss C. Cooper	1901	Mrs. Sterry
1896	Miss C. Cooper	1902	Miss Robb
1897	Mrs. Hillyard	1903	Miss D. K. Douglass
1898	Miss C. Cooper	1904	Miss D. K. Douglass
1899	Mrs. Hillyard	1905	Miss May Sutton

1906 Miss D. K. Douglass

DOUBLES CHAMPIONS

1879	L. R. Erskine and H. F. Lawford
1880	W. Renshaw and E. Renshaw
1881	W. Renshaw and E. Renshaw
1882	J. T. Hartley and R. T. Richardson
1883	C. W. Grinstead and C. D. Weldon
1884	W. Renshaw and E. Renshaw
1885	W. Renshaw and E. Renshaw
1886	W. Renshaw and E. Renshaw
1887	P. B. Lyon and H. W. W. Wilberforce
1888	W. Renshaw and E. Renshaw
1889	W. Renshaw and E. Renshaw
1890	J. Pim and F. O. Stoker
1891	W. Baddeley and H. Baddeley
1892	H. S. Barlow and E. W. Lewis
1893	J. Pim and F. O. Stoker
1894	W. Baddeley and H. Baddeley
1895	W. Baddeley and H. Baddeley
1896	W. Baddeley and H. Baddeley
1897	R. F. Doherty and H. L. Doherty
1898	R. F. Doherty and H. L. Doherty
1899	R. F. Doherty and H. L. Doherty
1900	R. F. Doherty and H. L. Doherty
1901	R. F. Doherty and H. L. Doherty
1902	S. H. Smith and F. L. Riseley
1903	R. F. Doherty and H. L. Doherty
1904	R. F. Doherty and H. L. Doherty
1905	R. F. Doherty and H. L. Doherty
1906	S. H. Smith and F. L. Riseley

Mixed Doubles Champions

1888	E. Renshaw and Mrs. Hillyard
1889	J. C. Kay and Miss L. Dod
1890	J. Baldwin and Miss K. Hill
1891	J. C. Kay and Miss Jackson
1892	A. Dod and Miss Dod
1893	W. Baddeley and Mrs. Hillyard
1894	H. S. Mahony and Miss C. Cooper
1895	H. S. Mahony and Miss C. Cooper
1896	H. S. Mahony and Miss C. Cooper
1897	H. S. Mahony and Miss C. Cooper
1898	H. S. Mahony and Miss C. Cooper
1899	C. H. L. Cazalet and Miss M. E. Robb
1900	H. L. Doherty and Miss C. Cooper
1901	S. H. Smith and Miss Martin
1902	S. H. Smith and Miss Martin
1903	F. L. Riseley and Miss D. K. Douglass
1904	S. H. Smith and Miss E. W. Thomson
1905	S. H. Smith and Miss E. W. Thomson
1906	F. L. Riseley and Miss D. K. Douglass

Ladies' Doubles Champions

1885	Mrs. Watts and Miss Bracewell
1886	Miss L. Dod and Miss M. Langrishe
1887	Miss L. Dod and Miss M. Langrishe
1888	Miss L. Dod and Miss M. Langrishe
1889	Miss M. Steedman and Miss B. Steedman
1890	Miss M. Steedman and Miss B. Steedman
1891	Miss L. Marriott and Miss M. Marriot
1892	Miss Jackson and Miss Crofton
1893	Mrs. Hillyard and Miss Steedman
1894	Mrs. Hillyard and Miss Steedman
1895	Mrs. Hillyard and Miss Steedman
1896	Mrs. Hillyard and Miss Steedman
1897	Mrs. Hillyard and Mrs. Pickering
1898	Miss Steedman and Miss R. Dyas
1899	Mrs. Durlacher and Miss Steedman
1900	Mrs. Pickering and Miss Robb
1901	Mrs. Pickering and Miss Robb

LADIES' DOUBLES CHAMPIONS (*continued*)

1902 Mrs. Pickering and Miss Robb
1903 Miss D. K. Douglass and Miss E. W. Thomson
1904 Miss D. K. Douglass and Miss E. W. Thomson
1905 Miss C. M. Wilson and Miss H. Lane
1906 Mrs. Hillyard and Miss C. Meyer

IRELAND

GENTLEMEN'S SINGLES

1879 V. 'St. Leger'
1880 W. Renshaw
1881 W. Renshaw
1882 W. Renshaw
1883 E. Renshaw
1884 H. F. Lawford
1885 H. F. Lawford
1886 H. F. Lawford
1887 E. Renshaw
1888 E. Renshaw
1889 W. J. Hamilton
1890 E. W. Lewis
1891 E. W. Lewis
1892 E. Renshaw
1893 J. Pim
1894 J. Pim
1895 J. Pim
1896 W. Baddeley
1897 W. V. Eaves
1898 H. S. Mahony
1899 R. F. Doherty
1900 R. F. Doherty
1901 R. F. Doherty
1902 H. L. Doherty
1903 W. S. Drapes
1904 J. C. Parke
1905 J. C. Parke
1906 F. L. Riseley

LADIES' SINGLES

1879 Miss M. Langrishe
1880 Miss Meldon
1881 [No competition]
1882 Miss Abercrombie
1883 Miss M. Langrishe
1884 Miss M. Watson
1885 Miss M. Watson
1886 Miss M. Langrishe
1887 Miss L. Dod
1888 Mrs. Hillyard
1889 Miss Martin
1890 Miss Martin
1891 Miss Martin
1892 Miss Martin
1893 Miss Stanuell
1894 Mrs. Hillyard
1895 Miss C. Cooper
1896 Miss Martin
1897 Mrs. Hillyard
1898 Miss C. Cooper
1899 Miss Martin
1900 Miss Martin
1901 Miss Robb
1902 Miss Martin
1903 Miss Martin
1904 Miss W. Longhurst
1905 Miss W. Longhurst
1906 Miss W. Longhurst

Gentlemen's Doubles

1879	J. Elliott and H. Kellie
1880	H. F. Lawford and A. J. Mulholland
1881	W. Renshaw and E. Renshaw
1882	E. de S. Browne and P. Aungier
1883	W. Renshaw and E. Renshaw
1884	W. Renshaw and E. Renshaw
1885	W. Renshaw and E. Renshaw
1886	W. J. Hamilton and H. K. McKay
1887	W. J. Hamilton and T. S. Campion
1888	W. J. Hamilton and T. S. Campion
1889	E. W. Lewis and G. W. Hillyard
1890	J. Pim and F. O. Stoker
1891	J. Pim and F. O. Stoker
1892	E. W. Lewis and E. G. Meers
1893	J. Pim and F. O. Stoker
1894	J. Pim and F. O. Stoker
1895	J. Pim and F. O. Stoker
1896	W. Baddeley and H. Baddeley
1897	W. Baddeley and H. Baddeley
1898	R. F. Doherty and H. L. Doherty
1899	R. F. Doherty and H. L. Doherty
1900	R. F. Doherty and H. L. Doherty
1901	R. F. Doherty and H. L. Doherty
1902	R. F. Doherty and H. L. Doherty
1903	J. E. Parke and "A. N. Other"
1904	T. D. Good and E. Carey
1905	A. H. Porter and J. F. Stokes
1906	F. L. Riseley and A. H. Porter

Mixed Doubles

1879	J. Elliott and Miss Costello
1880	S. D. Maul and Miss Costello
1881	W. Renshaw and Miss Abercrombie
1882	E. de S. Browne and Miss Perry
1883	E. de S. Browne and Miss M. Langrishe
1884	W. Renshaw and Miss M. Watson
1885	W. Renshaw and Miss M. Watson

MIXED DOUBLES (*continued*)

1886 L. Chatterton and Miss M. Langrishe
1887 E. Renshaw and Miss L. Dod
1888 E. W. Lewis and Miss Bracewell
1889 W. J. Hamilton and Miss Rice
1890 D. G. Chaytor and Miss Martin
1891 D. G. Chaytor and Miss Martin
1892 D. G. Chaytor and Miss Martin
1893 N. F. Goodbody and Miss E. C. Pinckney
1894 G. W. Hillyard and Mrs. Hillyard
1895 H. S. Mahony and Miss C. Cooper
1896 H. S. Mahony and Miss C. Cooper
1897 G. Greville and Mrs. Hillyard
1898 H. A. Nisbet and Miss R. Dyas
1899 R. F. Doherty and Miss C. Cooper
1900 R. F. Doherty and Miss C. Cooper
1901 H. L. Doherty and Mrs. Durlacher
1902 H. L. Doherty and Mrs. Durlacher
1903 [No competition]
1904 S. L. Fry and Miss W. A. Longhurst
1905 H. "Newcombe" and Miss Hodson
1906 F. L. Riseley and Mrs. Barker

LADIES' DOUBLES.

1884 Miss Langrishe and Miss M. Langrishe
1885 Miss Watson and Miss M. Watson
1886 Miss Butler and Miss L. Martin
1887 Miss Martin and Miss Stanuell
1888 Miss M. Steedman and Miss B. Steedman
1889 Miss Martin and Miss Stanuell
1890 Miss Martin and Miss Stanuell
1891 Miss Martin and Miss Stanuell
1892 Miss Dod and Miss Steedman
1893 Miss Corder and Miss Shaw
1894 Mrs. Hillyard and Miss Snook
1895 Miss Cooper and Miss C. Cooper
1896 Mrs. Pickering and Miss Dyas
1897 Mrs. Hillyard and Miss C. Cooper
1898 Miss L. Martin and Miss R. Dyas

LADIES' DOUBLES (*continued*)

1899	Mrs. Durlacher and Miss Martin
1900	Miss C. Cooper and Miss E. Cooper
1901	Mrs. Durlacher and Miss Martin
1902	Mrs. Durlacher and Miss Hazlett
1903–1906	[No competition]

SCOTLAND

GENTLEMEN'S SINGLES

1878	J. Patten	1892	A. W. Gore
1879	L. M. Balfour	1893	A. W. Gore
1880	J. Patten	1894	R. M. Watson
1881	J. G. Horn	1895	R. F. Doherty
1882	J. G. Horn	1896	R. F. Doherty
1883	J. G. Horn	1897	R. F. Doherty
1884	R. Gamble	1898	H. L. Doherty
1885	P. B. Lyon	1899	E. D. Black
1886	P. B. Lyon	1900	C. R. D. Pritchett
1887	H. Grove	1901	W. V. Eaves
1888	P. B. Lyon	1902	F. L. Riseley
1889	E. de S. H. Browne	1903	F. W. Payn
1890	E. de S. H. Browne	1904	A. F. Wilding
1891	E. de S. H. Browne	1905	A. M. Mackay
		1906	A. M. Mackay

LADIES' SINGLES

1886	Miss Boulton	1897	Miss Hunter
1887	Miss Butler	1898	Mrs. O'Neill
1888	Miss Butler	1899	Miss C. Cooper
1889	Miss Butler	1900	Miss Hunter
1890	Miss Jackson	1901	Miss Robb
1891	Miss Jackson	1902	Miss G. Maxwell
1892	Miss Jackson	1903	Miss M. T. Crawford
1893	Miss Corder	1904	Miss W. A. Longhurst
1894	Miss L. Patterson	1905	Mrs. Curtis Whyte
1895	Miss L. Patterson	1906	Miss A. M. Ferguson
1896	Miss L. Patterson		

GENTLEMEN'S DOUBLES

1878 A. G. Murray and C. C. Maconochie
1879 A. G. Murray and C. C. Maconochie
1880 A. G. Murray and C. C. Maconochie
1881 J. G. Horn and W. Horn
1882 C. B. Russell and M. G. Lascelles
1883 F. A. Fairlie and A. L. Davidson
1884 P. B. Lyon and H. B. Lyon
1885 E. W. Lewis and R. M. Watson
1886 P. B. Lyon and H. B. Lyon
1887 P. B. Lyon and H. B. Lyon
1888 P. B. Lyon and H. B. Lyon
1889 A. Thomson and J. H. Conyers
1890 E. de S. H. Browne and J. G. Horn
1891 R. M. Watson and E. B. Fuller
1892 H. G. Nadin and H. E. Caldecott
1893 A. W. Gore and R. M. Watson
1894 R. M. Watson and H. G. Nadin
1895 C. H. Martin and S. L. Bathurst
1896 E. R. Allen and C. G. Allen
1897 R. F. Doherty and H. L. Doherty
1898 R. F. Doherty and H. L. Doherty
1899 E. D. Black and C. Hobart
1900 C. R. D. Pritchett and A. W. McGregor
1901 W. V. Evans and E. D. Black
1902 C. R. D. Pritchett and A. W. McGregor
1903 F. W. Payn and A. W. McGregor
1904 C. G. Glenny and G. C. Glenny
1905 A. M. Mackay and A. W. McGregor
1906 A. M. Mackay and A. W. McGregor

MIXED DOUBLES

1904 A. F. Wilding and Miss W. A. Longhurst
1905 A. M. Mackay and Miss A. M. Ferguson
1906 A. M. Mackay and Miss A. M. Ferguson

WALES

GENTLEMEN'S SINGLES

1886	E. de S. H. Browne	1896	[No competition]
1887	E. de S. H. Browne	1897	S. H. Smith
1888	W. J. Hamilton	1898	S. H. Smith
1889	W. J. Hamilton	1899	S. H. Smith
1890	W. J. Hamilton	1900	S. H. Smith
1891	H. S. Barlow	1901	S. H. Smith
1892	H. S. Barlow	1902	S. H. Smith
1893	G. Ball-Greene	1903	J. M. Boucher
1894	G. C. Ball-Greene	1904	S. H. Smith
1895	W. V. Eaves	1905	S. H. Smith

1906 S. H. Smith

LADIES' SINGLES

1887	Miss M. Watson	1897	Miss H. Ridding
1888	Miss Hillyard	1898	Miss E. A. Par
1889	Miss Pope	1899	Miss M. E. Robb
1890	[No competition]	1900	Miss C. Hill
1891	Miss Pope	1901	Miss W. A. Longhurst
1892	Miss M. Sweet-Escott	1902	Miss W. A. Longhurst
1893	Miss Cochrane	1903	Miss C. M. Wilson
1894	Miss Jackson	1904	Miss C. M. Wilson
1895	Miss Corder	1905	Miss M. Sutton
1896	[No competition]	1906	Miss M. Sutton

UNITED STATES

GENTLEMEN'S SINGLES

1881	R. D. Sears	1887	R. D. Sears
1882	R. D. Sears	1888	H. W. Slocum
1883	R. D. Sears	1889	H. W. Slocum
1884	R. D. Sears	1890	O. S. Campbell
1885	R. D. Sears	1891	O. S. Campbell
1886	R. D. Sears	1892	O. S. Campbell

GENTLEMEN'S SINGLES (*continued*)

1893	R. D. Wrenn	1900	M. D. Whitman
1894	R. D. Wrenn	1901	W. A. Larned
1895	F. H. Hovey	1902	W. A. Larned
1896	R. D. Wrenn	1903	H. L. Doherty
1897	R. D. Wrenn	1904	H. Ward
1898	M. D. Whitman	1905	Beals C. Wright
1899	M. D. Whitman	1906	W. J. Clothier

GENTLEMEN'S DOUBLES

1881	C. M. Clark and F. W. Taylor
1882	R. D. Sears and James Dwight
1883	R. D. Sears and James Dwight
1884	R. D. Sears and James Dwight
1885	R. D. Sears and J. S. Clark
1886	R. D. Sears and James Dwight
1887	R. D. Sears and James Dwight
1888	O. S. Campbell and V. G. Hall
1889	H. W. Slocum and H. A. Taylor
1890	V. G. Hall and C. Hobart
1891	O. S. Campbell and R. P. Huntingdon, jun.
1892	O. S. Campbell and R. P. Huntingdon, jun.
1893	C. Hobart and F. H. Hovey
1894	C. Hobart and F. H. Hovey
1895	M. G. Chase and R. D. Wrenn
1896	C. B. Neel and S. R. Neel
1897	L. E. Ware and G. P. Sheldon
1898	L. E. Ware and G. P. Sheldon
1899	H. Ward and D. F. Davis
1900	H. Ward and D. F. Davis
1901	H. Ward and D. F. Davis
1902	R. F. Doherty and H. L. Doherty
1903	R. F. Doherty and H. L. Doherty
1904	H. Ward and B. C. Wright
1905	H. Ward and B. C. Wright
1906	H. Ward and B. C. Wright

LADIES' SINGLES

1887	Miss N. F. Hansell	1889	Miss B. Townsend
1888	Miss B. Townsend	1890	Miss E. C. Roosevelt

LADIES' SINGLES (*continued*)

1891	Miss M. E. Cahill	1898	Miss J. Atkinson
1892	Miss M. E. Cahill	1899	Miss Marion Jones
1893	Miss A. M. Terry	1900	Miss McAteer
1894	Miss H. Helwig	1901	Miss B. Moore
1895	Miss J. Atkinson	1902	Miss M. Jones
1896	Miss B. Moore	1903	Miss E. H. Moore
1897	Miss J. Atkinson	1904	Miss May Sutton

1905 Miss E. H. Moore

CANADA

	CHAMPION	LADY CHAMPION
1897	L. E. Ware	
1898	L. E. Ware	1898 Miss J. Atkinson
1899	M. D. Whitman	1899 Miss V. Summerhayes
1900	M. D. Whitman	1900 Miss V. Summerhayes
1901	M. D. Whitman	
1902	B. C. Wright	
1903	B. C. Wright	
1904	B. C. Wright	

1905 [Not played]

VICTORIA

	CHAMPION	LADY CHAMPION
1897	A. Kearney	
1898	A. Kearney	1898 Miss P. Howitt
1899	A. Dunlop	1899 Miss P. Howitt
1900	A. Dunlop	
1901	H. Rice	
1902	N. E. Brookes	1902 Miss Guyton
1903	N. E. Brookes	
1904	N. E. Brookes	

NEW SOUTH WALES

	Champion	Lady Champion
1897	C. Curtis	Miss P. Howitt
1898	H. Crossman	Miss P. Howitt
1899	A. Kearney	Miss P. Howitt
1900	Horace Rice	Miss Payten
1901	A. Kearney	Miss Payten
1902	W. V. Eaves	Miss Payten
1903	J. G. Sharp	Miss Payten
1904	H. Rice	Miss Payten

NEW ZEALAND

	Champion	Lady Champion
1903	H. A. Parker	Miss K. Nunneley
1904	H. A. Parker	Miss K. Nunneley

NATAL

	Champion	Lady Champion
1896	H. Miller	Miss N. Hickman
1898	C. E. Finlason	Miss N. Hickman
1899	G. C. Collins	Miss N. Hickman
1900	G. C. Collins	Miss N. Hickman
1901	G. C. Collins	
1902	G. C. Collins	Miss N. Hickman
1903	H. A. Kitson (Johannesburg)	Miss Turnbull (Pietermaritzburg)
1904	W. C. H. Tripp (Pretoria)	Miss Turnbull (Pietermaritzburg)

SOUTH AFRICA

	Champion	Lady Champion
1898	L. Giddy	Miss N. Hickman
1899	L. G. Heard	Miss N. Hickman
1900–2	[No competition owing to S.A. war]	
1903	R. W. G. Clarke	Miss Kuys
1904	P. W. Sherwell	Mrs. H. A. Kirby
1905	H. A. Kitson	Mrs. H. A. Kirby

EUROPE

CHAMPION

1899	H. S. Mahony	1903	R. Le Roy
1900	M. J. G. Ritchie	1904	M. J. G. Ritchie
1901	M. Decugis	1905	A. F. Wilding
1902	H. L. Doherty	1906	F. L. Riseley

FRANCE

CHAMPION

1902	M. Vacherot (T.C.P.)	1903	M. Decugis (T.C.P.)
		1904	M. Decugis (T.C.P.)

GERMANY

	CHAMPION		LADY CHAMPION
1897	G. W. Hillyard	1897	Mrs. Hillyard
1898	H. S. Mahony	1898	Miss Lane
1899	C. Hobart	1899	Miss C. Cooper
1900	G. W. Hillyard	1900	Mrs. Hillyard
1901	Max Decugis	1901	Miss T. Lowther
1902	Max Decugis	1902	Miss M. Ross
1903	M. J. G. Ritchie	1903	Miss V. Pinckney
1904	M. J. G. Ritchie	1904	Miss E. Lane
1905	M. J. G. Ritchie	1905	Miss E. Lane
1906	M. J. G. Ritchie	1906	Frl. L. Berton

CHAMPION OF THE GERMANS

1896	Count V. Voss	1900	V. von Muller
1897	G. Wantzelius	1901	H. von Schneider
1898	Count V. Voss	1904	F. Boeiling
1899	Count V. Voss	1905	R. Schindler
		1906	O. Kreuzer

AUSTRIA

	Champion	Lady Champion
1896	H. Guy	
1897	H. Dering	
1898	J. André	
1899	H. Dering	Frl. B. Kaiser
1900	M. J. G. Ritchie	Frl. B. Kaiser
1901	M. J. G. Ritchie	Miss Lane
1902	M. J. G. Ritchie	Miss Lane
1903	M. J. G. Ritchie	Miss W. A. Longhurst
1904	H. R. Barrett	Miss Bromfield
1905	M. J. G. Ritchie	Frl. M. Amende
1906	A. F. Wilding	Frl. L. Berton

BELGIUM

	Champion	Lady Champion
1900	H. Roper Barrett	Mme. Trasenster
1901	H. Roper Barrett	Mme. Trasenster
1902	H. Roper Barrett	Miss M. Coles and Miss Squire divided
1903	H. Roper Barrett	Mlle. J. Chazal
1904	H. Roper Barrett	Miss Warden
1905	P. de Borman	Mlle. J. Chazal
1906	H. Roper Barrett	Mlle. Dufrénoy

	Champion of the Belgians	Lady Champion
1900	P. de Borman	
1901	W. Lemaire de Warzée	Mme. Comblen
1902	P. de Borman	Mme. Trasenster
1903	P. de Borman	Mlle. J. Chazal
1904	P. de Borman	Mlle. J. Chazal
1905	P. de Borman	Mlle. Dufrénoy

PRUSSIA

	Champion		Champion
1896	Dr. W. Bonne	1899	A. von Gordon
1897	Lieut. Bencard	1900	A. W. Schmitz
1898	J. André	1901	A. W. Schmitz

1903 C. von Wesseley

THE NETHERLANDS

CHAMPION

1899	K. W. A. Beukema	1902	J. M. Flavelle
1900	J. M. Flavelle	1903	J. M. Flavelle
1901	J. M. Flavelle	1904	W. C. Grant

SWITZERLAND

	CHAMPION	LADY CHAMPION	
1898	R. B. Hough		
1899	G. M. Simond . . .	1899	Miss Brooksmith
1900	E. K. Harvey . . .	1900	Miss Brooksmith
1901	E. B. Harran . . .	1901	Miss Brooksmith
1902	G. Patry	1902	Mrs. Sterry
1903	M. Vacherot . . .	1903	Mlle. Prévost
1904	"A. T. Holmes" . .	1904	Mlle. Masson
1905	G. M. Simond . . .	1905	Mrs. "Player"
1906	D. P. Rhodes . . .	1906	Miss V. Warden

CHAMPION OF THE SWISS

1898	A. Bovet	1902	G. Patry
1899	Dr. de Trey	1903	G. Patry
1900	G. Patry	1904	G. Patry
1901	G. Patry	1905	G. Patry
		1906	G. Patry

REGULATIONS FOR THE INTERNATIONAL LAWN TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIP

1. THE competition shall be called "The International Lawn Tennis Championship," and shall be open to any nation which has a recognised lawn tennis association, and for the purposes of these regulations, Australia with New Zealand, Austria, Belgium, the British Isles, British South Africa, Canada, France, Germany, Holland, India, Sweden and Norway, Switzerland, and the United States of America shall be regarded as separate nations. The competition shall take place in accordance with the following regulations, and except in so far as may be agreed upon by the unanimous consent of the competing nations for their own tie, with the laws and regulations of the game for the time being sanctioned by the nation in whose country the challenge tie shall from time to time be played.

2. The management of the competition shall be entrusted to a committee appointed annually by the lawn tennis association of the champion nation. When gate money shall be taken, one-half of the profit shall belong to the visiting nation; or, in the case of a tie being played on neutral ground, one-third each to the visiting nation.

3. For the year 1900 the challenge tie shall be played in the United States of America, but in subsequent years in the country of the champion nation at a date and upon a ground to be agreed upon by common consent. In the event of an agreement not being

arrived at, the fixing of the date and ground shall be submitted to arbitration. Any nation wishing to compete shall give notice to the secretary of the lawn tennis association of the champion nation, so that it shall reach him not later than the first Monday in March of the year in which the competition is to take place. Should more than one nation challenge, they shall compete among themselves for the right to play in the challenge tie, at a date and upon a ground to be agreed upon by common consent.

In the event of an agreement not being arrived at, the preliminary ties shall be played in the country of the champion nation at a date and upon a ground to be fixed upon by the committee of management. Should no challenge be received by the first Monday of March in the year in which the competition is to take place, or if such challenge as may be received by that time be withdrawn, the first challenge received thereafter shall be a good challenge, provided it is received before the first day of May of said year.

4. A player shall be qualified to represent a nation, if he shall have been born in that nation, or shall have resided therein for at least two years immediately preceding a tie, providing always that he be a *bona fide* amateur; but no one shall be entitled to play for more than one nation in this competition during the same year. During the time that a player may be qualified to play for a nation under the residential qualification, he may play for the nation for which he shall have last previously been qualified.

5. A referee shall be appointed by common consent of the competing sides. He shall have power to appoint umpires, and shall decide any point of law which an umpire may profess himself unable to decide, or which may be referred to him on appeal from the decision of an umpire by the players. He shall decide, if he be called upon to decide by the captain of either side, whether or not a match or matches shall be stopped owing to the state of the courts, the state of the weather, darkness, or other unavoidable hindrance.

6. The players shall be chosen in the Single and Double contests by their respective captains from not more than four players nominated by the lawn tennis associations of the competing nations. Notices of such nomination shall be sent to the secretary of the lawn tennis association of the opposing nation

not later than twenty-one days previous to the commencement of a tie, and in such a way that it shall reach him not later than seven days before the commencement of play. Each tie shall be decided by the combined results of Singles and Doubles, and the side which shall win the majority of matches shall be the winner of a tie. Should four players be nominated, it shall at the same time be stated which are to take part in the Singles and which in the Doubles.

7. The time of cessation of play shall be fixed before the commencement of each day's play by the captains of the opposing sides, or by the referee if they shall disagree. It shall be the duty of the referee to stop play when this time arrives; provided, nevertheless, that he may extend the time with the consent of the captains of the opposing sides. A player shall not be called upon to play more than one match a day, except with the unanimous consent of the captains of the opposing sides and the committee of management.

8. In the Singles each team shall consist of two players who shall play against each of the opposing team the best of five advantage sets. The order of play shall be decided by lot.

9. In the Doubles each team shall consist of two players, who shall play against the opposing team the best of five advantage sets.

10. In Singles and Doubles notice of the teams chosen shall be given to the captain of the opposing side not later than twelve hours before the time fixed for the commencement of play in each contest. The order of play, as regards Singles and Doubles respectively, shall be decided by the committee of management and announced not later than twenty-four hours before such notice is due.

11. If any player be absent when called upon to play by the referee, the opposing side shall be entitled to three love sets. Should, however, a player be incapacitated by illness, proved to the satisfaction of the referee, another member of the team can be substituted, provided the captain of the other team gives his consent.

12. The above regulations shall be binding upon the nations concerned, and shall not be altered except with the consent of two-thirds of the association whose nations shall have from time to time competed and who shall record their votes.

Note.—In the above regulations, one nation playing against another is regarded as a "tie"; Singles and Doubles are regarded as separate "contests," and the best of five advantage sets is regarded as a "match." The players in Singles and Doubles are regarded as separate "teams," and the players in the combined contests as a "side."

REGULATIONS FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF LAWN TENNIS PRIZE MEETINGS

1. AT prize meetings promoted by associations or clubs affiliated to the Lawn Tennis Association, the laws of lawn tennis for the time being sanctioned by the Lawn Tennis Association, and the regulations hereinafter contained, shall be observed.

2. All details connected with any prize meeting, shall be settled by the committee of the club holding the meeting, or by a committee specially appointed for the purpose, of whom two, or such larger number as the committee shall determine, shall form a quorum.

3. A circular shall be issued by the committee specifying the conditions of the competition (*see* Recommendation 5).

4. No cheques, orders for money, or cash payments, in any form shall be given as prizes, and the amount actually paid for each prize shall in no case be below the advertised value of the same.

5. The committee shall elect a referee, with power to appoint a substitute to be approved by them.

6. The referee, or such other member or members of the committee as may be selected for the purpose, shall have power to appoint umpires, and the referee shall decide any point of law which an umpire may profess himself unable to decide, or which may be referred to him on appeal from the decision of an umpire.

7. The referee shall, during the meeting, be *ex officio* a member of the committee.

8. The courts shall be allotted to the competitors, and the

competitors shall be called upon to play, by a member or members of the committee, to be selected for the purpose, and in case of disagreement the committee shall decide.

9. The committee shall help to keep order on the ground and shall consult and decide on any question arising out of the competition, if summoned for that purpose by the referee or by any two of their number; and they shall have power, when so convened, the misconduct of a competitor having been reported to them by a member of the committee or an umpire, to disqualify the offender, and further to order him off the ground, should his misconduct appear to them to justify such action, but before such action shall be taken, an opportunity of offering an explanation shall be afforded to the competitor whose misconduct has been reported to them.

10. It is the duty of an umpire—

(*a*) To ascertain that the net is at the right height before the commencement of play, and to measure and adjust the net during play, if asked to do so, or if, in his opinion, its height has been altered.

(*b*) To call the faults (subject to Regulation 11).

(*c*) To call the strokes when won, or when he is asked to call them, and to record them on the umpire's scoring-sheet;

Example.—The strokes are scored by means of pencil marks in the spaces beneath the word "STROKES," thus:

Game	Initials of players	STROKES	Game won by
1	A B	1 1 | 1 | 1 |	A B
	C D	| 1 | 1 |	
2	C D	| 1 | 1 1 | 1 | | 1 | 1 | 1 |	C D
	A B	1 | 1 | | 1 | 1 | 1 |	

The scoring-sheet shows that in the first game the score ran, and would have been called, thus: "15—love, 30—love, 30—15, 40—15, 40—30, game (AB)"; in the second game, "love—15, 15 all, 15—30, 30 all, 40—30, deuce, advantage (C D), deuce, advantage (A B), deuce, advantage (C D), game (C D).

The score of the server should be called first.

(*d*) To call the games and the sets at the end of each, or when asked to call them; and to record them on the umpire's scoring-sheet;

In scoring handicap matches, the odds received should be marked by crosses on the right of the first perpendicular thick line before the commencement of each game, thus:

Game	Initials of Players	Strokes	Game won by
1	A B	+	
	C D		
2	C D		
	A B	+ +	
3	A B	+	
	C D		
4	C D		
	A B	+ +	
5	A B	+	
	C D		
6	C D		
	A B	+ +	

Here A B is receiving 15 and three-sixths of 15.

Note.—At the end of each game the games should be called with the name of the player who is in advance, thus: "two games to one, B wins," or, "B leads." If the games are level the score should be called thus, "three games all," or as the case may be. At the end of each set the sets should be called in like manner.

(*e*) To direct competitors to change sides, in accordance with law 23;

(*f*) When appealed to during a rest, whether a doubtful ball is "in-play" or not, to call "play it out," and at the conclusion of the rest, to give his decision (subject to Regulation 11) or to direct the competitors to play the stroke again;

When odds are owed, they should be marked on the *left* of the first perpendicular thick line, before the commencement of each game, thus:[1]

Game	Initials of Players	Strokes	Game won by
1	A B	1 1	
	C D		
2	C D		
	A B	1	
3	A B	1 1	
	C D		
4	C D		
	A B	1	
5	A B	1	
	C D		
6	C D		
	A B	1	

(*g*) To decide all doubtful or disputed strokes, and all points of law (subject to Regulations 11 and 12);

(*h*) In handicap matches to call the odds at the commencement of each game;

(*i*) To sign the umpire's scoring-sheets, and to deliver them at the conclusion of the match to such person as the committee may authorise to receive them;

[1] For continuance of owed odds score-sheet see page 203.

Provided that no omission of any of the foregoing duties on the part of an umpire shall of itself invalidate a game or match.

11. It is the duty of a line-umpire to call faults and to decide strokes relating to the line for which he is appointed umpire, and to such line only.

12. The decision of an umpire shall be final upon every ques-

and crossed off one by one when the player owing wins a stroke, thus:

Game	Initials of Players	Strokes	Game won by
1	A B	+ +	
	C D		
2	C D		
	A B	+	
3	A B	+ +	
	C D		
4	C D		
	A B	+	
5	A B	+	
	C D		
6	C D		
	A B	+	

Here A B owes 15 and two-sixths of 15.

tion of fact, and no competitor may appeal from it; but if an umpire be in doubt as to a point of law, or if a competitor appeal against his decision on such a point, the umpire shall submit it to the referee, whose decision shall be final.

13. The referee shall not bet on a match, nor shall an umpire on a match in which he is acting, and if an objection for this

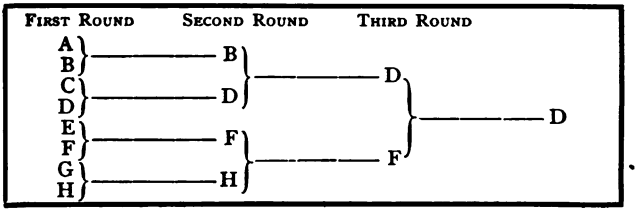
or any other reason be made to a referee or umpire, either before or during the match, by a member of the committee or a competitor, the match, if begun, shall, if necessary, be at once stopped by the referee or two members of the committee, who shall take the opinion of the committee on the objection, and the committee shall have power to remove or suspend the referee or umpire so objected to, provided that the decision of the majority of the committee present shall be final, and that the referee or umpire so objected to (if a member of the committee) shall not be at liberty to vote on the question.

14. No competitor may transfer his entry to another player.

15. Competitors shall have a right, by themselves or their deputies, to be present at the draw.

16. The draw shall be conducted in the following manner: Each competitor's name shall be written on a separate card or paper, and these shall be placed in a bowl or hat, drawn out one by one at random, and copied on a list in the order in which they have been drawn.

17. When the number of competitors is 4, 8, 16, 32, 64, or any higher power of 2, they shall meet in pairs, in accordance with the system shown by the following diagram:



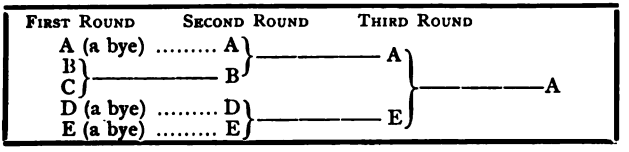
18. When the number of competitors is not a power of 2, there shall be byes in the first round. The number of byes shall be equal to the difference between the number of competitors and the next higher power of 2; and the number of pairs that shall meet in the first round shall be equal to the difference between the number of competitors and the next lower power of 2. The byes, if even in number, shall be divided, as the names are drawn, in equal proportions at the top and bottom of the list,

above and below the pairs; if uneven in number, there shall be one more bye at the bottom than at the top. Thus, in

SERIES 1.

From 5 to 8 competitors.

With 5, there will be 1 bye at the top, and 2 byes at the bottom of the list, thus:

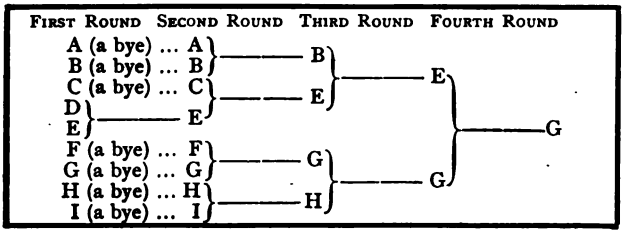


With 6, there will be 1 bye at the top, and 1 bye at the bottom.
With 7, 1 bye at the bottom.
With 8, no byes.

SERIES 2.

From 9 to 16 competitors.

With 9, 3 byes at the top, and 4 byes at the bottom, thus:

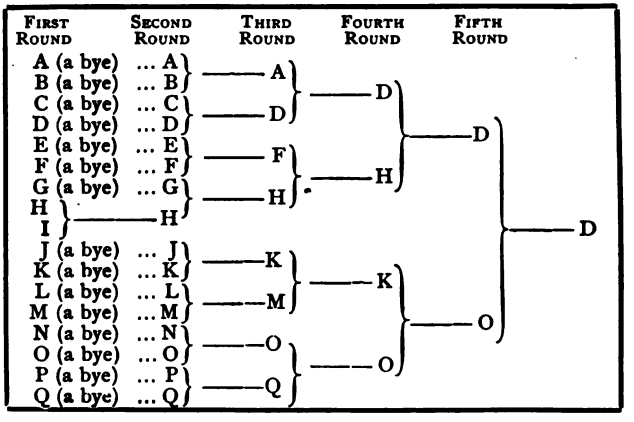


With 10, 3 byes at the top, and 3 byes at the bottom.
,, 11, 2 ,, ,, 3 ,, ,,
,, 12, 2 ,, ,, 2 ,, ,,
,, 13, 1 bye ,, ,, 2 ,, ,,
,, 14, 1 ,, ,, 1 bye ,, ,,
,, 15, 1 ,, bottom.
,, 16, no byes.

Series 3.

From 17 to 32 competitors.

With 17, 7 byes at the top, and 8 byes at the bottom, thus:



With 18, 7 byes at the top, and 7 byes at the bottom.
,, 19, 6 ,, ,, 7 ,, ,,
,, 20, 6 ,, ,, 6 ,, ,,
,, 21, 5 ,, ,, 6 ,, ,,
,, 22, 5 ,, ,, 5 ,, ,,
,, 23, 4 ,, ,, 5 ,, ,,
,, 24, 4 ,, ,, 4 ,, ,,

With 25, 3 byes at the top, and 4 byes at the bottom.
,, 26, 3 ,, ,, 3 ,, ,,
,, 27, 2 ,, ,, 3 ,, ,,
,, 28, 2 ,, ,, 2 ,, ,,
,, 29, 1 bye ,, ,, 2 ,, ,,
,, 30, 1 ,, ,, 1 bye ,, ,,
,, 31, 1 ,, bottom.
,, 32, no byes.

and so on, with larger numbers, in like manner.

19. If a competitor be absent when called on to play, or shall refuse to play, or shall have given previous notice to the referee or member of the committee that he cannot play in his next round, his adversary shall win in that round.

20. In handicap matches the competitors shall be handicapped by the committee, or by a handicapper appointed by the committee.

21. Where the system of handicapping by sixths is used, the authorised table of differential odds shall not be in any way altered or departed from, and unless any other principle of handicapping be adopted, the handicap shall be by classes, as below :—

Class 0 scratch.
,, 1 receives one-sixth of 15.
,, 2 ,, two-sixths of 15.
,, 3 ,, three-sixths of 15
,, 4 ,, four-sixths of 15.
,, 5 ,, five-sixths of 15.
,, 6 ,, 15.
,, 7 ,, 15 and one-sixth of 15.
,, 8 ,, 15 and two-sixths of 15.
,, 9 ,, 15 and three-sixths of 15.
,, 10 ,, 15 and four-sixths of 15.
,, 11 ,, 15 and five-sixths of 15.
,, 12 ,, 30.
,, 13 ,, 30 and one-sixth of 15.
,, 14 ,, 30 and two-sixths of 15.
,, 15 ,, 30 and three-sixths of 15.
,, 16 ,, 30 and four-sixths of 15.
,, 17 ,, 30 and five-sixths of 15.
,, 18 ,, 40.

When two players in different classes below scratch meet, the superior player shall start from scratch, and the odds received by the inferior player are as shown by the annexed table (No. I.). To use the table, find in the diagonal line of figures the number representing the class of the superior player, then travel along the corresponding horizontal column until the vertical column is reached which bears at the top the number of the class of the inferior player. The odds specified at the intersection of the two columns are the odds required.

Example.—If class 3 has to meet class 9, start from the figure 3 in the diagonal line of figures, and look horizontally until the vertical column is reached headed by the figure 9. The odds given at the point of intersection of the two columns (viz., 15 and one-sixth of 15) are the odds required.

When the difference between the best and worst players is great (say more than 30), it is desirable to handicap the best players at *owed odds*. The players above scratch (*i.e.*, owing odds) should be classified as follows:—

Class 1 owes one-sixth of 15.
,, 2 ,, two-sixths of 15.
,, 3 ,, three-sixths of 15.
,, 4 ,, four-sixths of 15.
,, 5 ,, five-sixths of 15.
,, 6 ,, 15.
,, 7 ,, 15 and one-sixth of 15.
,, 8 ,, 15 and two-sixths of 15.
,, 9 ,, 15 and three-sixths of 15.
,, 10 ,, 15 and four-sixths of 15.
,, 11 ,, 15 and five-sixths of 15.
,, 12 ,, 30.
,, 13 ,, 30 and one-sixth of 15.
,, 14 ,, 30 and two-sixths of 15.
,, 15 ,, 30 and three-sixths of 15.
,, 16 ,, 30 and four-sixths of 15.
,, 17 ,, 30 and five-sixths of 15.
,, 18 ,, 40.

When the two players in different classes above scratch meet, the inferior player shall start from scratch, and the odds owed the superior player are as shown by the annexed table (No. II.).

This table is to be used in the same way as the former, the class of the superior player being looked for in the horizontal line of figures at the top, and the class of the inferior player in the diagonal line of figures.

Example.—If class 12 (owe 30) meet class 7 (owe 15 and one-sixth of 15), the former must owe the latter the odds of four-sixths of 15.

22. In championship matches and handicap by classes, as above, advantage-sets shall be played throughout the ties.

23. The committee may, whether appealed to by any competitor or not, postpone the meeting or any match or part of a match if, in their opinion, the state of the weather or of the light, or condition of the ground, or other circumstances, render it advisable to do so.

HANDICAPS. TABLE No. I. (RECEIVED ODDS.)

When two players, both in receipt of odds, meet, the player receiving the smaller odds is put back to scratch. The following table shows the point at which the other should then start. The number at the left of the horizontal columns denotes the player who goes back to scratch, those at the head of the vertical column the player who still receives odds; and the numbers within the columns show the odds to be received by the player whose number stands at the head of the column.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
⅛ of 15.	⅜ of 15.	⅜ of 15.	⅜ of 15.	⅜ of 15.	15.	15.1	15.2	15.3	15.4	15.5	30.	30.1	30.2	30.3	30.4	30.5	40.
1	⅛ of 15.	⅜ of 15.	⅜ of 15.	⅜ of 15.	⅜ of 15.	15.	15.1	15.2	15.3	15.4	15.5	30.	30.1	30.2	30.3	30.5	40.
	2	⅛ of 15.	⅛ of 15.	⅜ of 15.	⅜ of 15.	15.	15.	15.1	15.2	15.4	15.5	30.	30.1	30.2	30.3	30.4	30.5
		3	⅛ of 15.	⅜ of 15.	¼ of 15.	⅜ of 15.	15.	15.1	15.1	15.3	15.4	30.	30.	30.1	30.2	30.4	30.5
			4	⅛ of 15.	⅜ of 15.	⅜ of 15.	⅜ of 15.	15.	15.1	15.2	15.4	15.5	30.	30.1	30.2	30.3	30.5
				5	⅛ of 15.	⅜ of 15.	⅜ of 15.	⅜ of 15.	15.	15.1	15.3	15.5	15.5	30.	30.1	30.2	30.4
					6	⅛ of 15.	⅜ of 15.	⅜ of 15.	⅜ of 15.	15.	15.1	15.3	15.5	15.5	30.	30.1	30.4
						7	⅛ of 15.	⅜ of 15.	⅜ of 15	⅜ of 15.	15.	15.2	15.4	15.5	30.	30.1	30.3
							8	⅛ of 15.	⅜ of 15.	⅜ of 15.	15.	15.1	15.2	15.4	15.5	30.	30.2
								9	⅛ of 15.	⅜ of 15.	15.	15.2	15.3	15.4	30.	30.1	
									10	⅛ of 15.	⅜ of 15.	15.	15.1	15.2	15.3	15.5	30.1
										11	⅜ of 15.	¼ of 15.	15.	15.1	15.2	15.4	30.
											12	⅜ of 15.	⅜ of 15.	⅜ of 15.	15.	15.2	15.5
												13	⅜ of 15.	⅜ of 15.	⅜ of 15.	15.1	15.3
													14	⅛ of 15.	⅜ of 15.	⅜ of 15.	15.2
														15	⅛ of 15.	¼ of 15	15.
															16	⅜ of 15.	15.
																17	⅛ of 15.

This table was calculated upon the following data :—
In the case of received odds
The average value of ⅛ is ·2024.
,, ,, ¼ is ·3552.
,, ,, ⅜ is ·4811.
,, ,, ½ is ·6069.
,, ,, ⅝ is ·7841.
,, length of a game is 4·6250 strokes.
15.1 means 15 and one-sixth of 15, and so on.

HANDICAPS. TABLE NO. II. (OWED ODDS.)

When two players meet who are handicapped to *owe* odds, the player owing the lesser odds is placed at scratch. This table shows the odds the other will still owe :

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
⅛ of 15.	⅛ of 15.	⅛ of 15.	⅛ of 15.	⅛ of 15.	15.	15.1	15.2	15.3	15.4	15.5	30.	30.1	30.2	30.3	30.4	30.5	40.
1	⅛ of 15.	⅛ of 15.	⅛ of 15.	⅛ of 15.	⅛ of 15.	15.	15.1	15.1	15.2	15.3	15.4	30.	30.	30.1	30.2	30.3	30.4
	2	⅛ of 15.	⅛ of 15.	⅛ o. 15.	⅛ of 15	⅛ of 15.	15.	15.	15.1	15.2	15.3	15.4	15.5	30.	30.	30.1	30.2
		3	⅛ of 15.	⅛ of 15.	⅛ of 15.	⅛ of 15.	⅛ of 15.	15.	15.	15.1	15.2	15.3	15.4	15.5	30.	30.	30.1
			4	⅛	⅛ of 15.	⅛ of 15.	⅛ of 15.	⅛ of 15.	⅛ of 15.	15.	15.1	15.2	15.3	15.4	15.5	15.5	30.
				5	⅛ of 15.	⅛ of 15.	⅛ of 15.	⅛ of 15.	⅛ of 15.	⅛ of 15.	15.	15.1	15.2	15.3	15.3	15.4	15.5
					6	⅛ of 15.	⅛ of 15.	⅛ of 15.	⅛ of 15.	⅛ of 15.	⅛ of 15.	15.	15.1	15.1	15.2	15.3	15.4
						7	⅛ of 15.	⅛ of 15.	⅛ of 15.	⅛ of 15.	⅛ of 15.	⅛ of 15.	15.	15.	15.1	15.1	15.2
							8	o	⅛ of 15.	⅛ of 15.	⅛ of 15.	⅛ of 15.	⅛ of 15.	⅛ of 15.	15.	15.	15.1
								9	o	⅛ of 15.	⅛ of 15.	⅛ of 15.	⅛ of 15.	⅛ of 15.	⅛ of 15.	15.	15.1
									10	⅛ of 15.	⅛ of 15.	⅛ of 15.	⅛ of 15.	⅛ of 15.	⅛ of 15.	⅛ of 15.	15.
										11	⅛ of 15.	⅛ of 15.	⅛ of 15.	⅛ of 15.	⅛ of 15.	⅛ of 15.	⅛ of 15.
											12	⅛ of 15.	⅛ of 15.	⅛ of 15.	⅛ of 15.	⅛ of 15.	⅛ of 15.
												13	⅛ of 15.	⅛ of 15.	⅛ of 15.	⅛ of 15.	⅛ of 15.
													14	o	⅛ of 15.	⅛ of 15.	⅛ of 15.
														15	o	⅛ of 15.	⅛ of 15.
															16	o	⅛ of 15.
																17	⅛ of 15.

This table has been calculated upon the following data :—

In the case of owed odds

The average value of ⅛ is ·2158.
" " ⅛ is ·3929.
" " ⅛ is ·5188.
" " ⅛ is ·6448.
" " ⅛ is ·7975.
" length of a game is 4·6250 strokes.

In using this table, supply throughout the word "owe" before the odds specified.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. THERE should be, if possible, a clear margin of at least 12 feet on each side, and 21 feet at each end of the court; or, between adjacent courts, 18 feet on each side; but should the courts be placed end to end, or end to side, there should be spaces of 42 feet or 33 feet respectively and a stop net at least 8 feet high between.

2. Should the referee be a competitor, a substitute should be appointed to act for him while he is playing.

3. If two or more prizes be given, the loser in the final tie should receive the second prize, and where more than two prizes are given, the losers in the last tie but one should receive prizes of equal value.

4. In important matches it is desirable to have seven line-umpires in addition to the scoring-umpire—namely, one for each base line, one for each service line, one for the half-court line, and one for each side line.

5. The circular issued by the committee should include the following particulars:

(1) The date, hour, and place of meeting;
(2) The events, entrance fees, and value of the prizes;
(3) The date, hour, and place of receiving and closing the entries;
(4) The time and place of the draw;
(5) The maker's name of the balls to be used at the meeting;
(6) The shoes to be worn, if there be any restriction in this respect;
(7) The number of sets to be played in the various matches, and whether advantage-sets or not.

6. In handicap competitions the handicap should, if possible, be framed before the draw takes place.

LAWS OF THE GAME

THE SINGLE-HANDED GAME.

1. FOR the single-handed game the court is 27 feet in width and 78 feet in length. It is divided across the middle by a net, the ends of which are attached to the tops of two posts which stand 3 feet outside the court on each side. The height of the net is 3 feet 6 inches at the post and 3 feet at the centre. At each end of the court, parallel with the net and at a distance of 39 feet from it, are drawn the *base lines*, the extremities of which are connected by the *side lines*. Half-way between the side lines, and parallel with them, is drawn the *half-court line*, dividing the space on each side of the net into two equal parts called the *right* and *left courts*. On each side of the net, at a distance of 21 feet from it and parallel with it, are drawn the *service lines*. The marking of the part of the *half-court line* between the *service lines* and the *base lines* may be omitted, with the exception of a small portion at the centre of each *base line*, as indicated in the plans appended to these laws.[1]

2. The balls shall not be less than $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches, nor more than $2\frac{5}{8}$ inches in diameter, and not less than 1 ounce, nor more than 2 ounces in weight.

3. In matches where umpires are appointed, their decision shall be final; but where a referee is appointed, an appeal shall lie to him from the decision of an umpire on a question of law.

4. The choice of sides and the right to be server or striker-out during the first game shall be decided by toss; provided that, if the winner of the toss choose the right to be server or striker-out, the other player shall have the choice of sides, and *vice versa;* and provided that the winner of the toss may, if he prefer it, require the other player to make the first choice.

1 Since the introduction of the new rule as to foot-faults the continuation of the half-court line is generally put outside the base line.

5. The players shall stand on opposite sides of the net; the player who first delivers the ball shall be called the *server*, the other the *striker-out*.

6. At the end of the first game the striker-out shall become server, and the server shall become striker-out; and so on alternately in the subsequent games of the set.

7. The server shall serve with both feet behind (*i.e.*, further from the net than) the base line, and within the limits of the imaginary continuation of the centre service and the side lines. It is not a fault if one only of the server's feet do not touch the ground at the moment at which the service is delivered. He shall place both feet on the ground immediately before serving and shall not take a running or walking start. He shall deliver the service from the right and left courts alternately, beginning from the right in each of his service games, even though odds be given or owed.

8. The ball served must drop within the service line, half-court line, and side line of the court which is diagonally opposite to that from which it was served, or upon any such line.

9. It is a *fault* if the service be delivered from the wrong court, or if the server do not stand as directed in Law 7, or if the ball served drop in the net or beyond the service line, or if it drop out of court or in the wrong court. If the server in attempting to serve miss the ball altogether, it does not count a fault, but if the ball be touched (no matter how slightly) by the racket, a service is thereby delivered and the laws governing the service at once apply.

10. A fault may not be taken.

11. After a fault the server shall serve again from the same court from which he served that fault, unless it was a fault because served from the wrong court.

12. A fault may not be claimed after the next service has been delivered.

13. The service may not be volleyed, *i.e.*, taken before it touches the ground, even though the ball be clearly outside the service court.

14. The server shall not serve until the striker-out be ready. If the latter attempt to return the service but fail, he loses the stroke. If however the striker-out signify that he is not ready after the service has been delivered, but before the ball touch

the ground, he may not claim a fault because the ball ultimately drops outside the service-court.

15. A ball is *in play* from the moment at which it is delivered in service (unless a fault) until it has been volleyed by the striker-out in his first stroke, or has dropped in the net or out of court, or has touched either of the players or anything that he wears or carries (except his racket in the act of striking), or has been struck by either of the players with his racket more than once consecutively, or has been volleyed before it has passed over the net, or has failed to pass over the net before its first bound (except as provided in Law 17), or has touched the ground twice consecutively on either side of the net, though the second time may be out of court.

16. It is a "let" if the ball served touch the net, provided service be otherwise good; or if a service or fault be delivered when the striker-out is not ready. In case a player is obstructed by any accident not within his control the ball shall be considered a let; but where a permanent fixture of the court is the cause of the accident the point shall be counted—benches and chairs placed round the court and their occupants and the umpire and linesmen shall be considered permanent fixtures. If however a ball in play strike a permanent fixture of the court (other than the net or posts) before it touches the ground, the point is lost; if after it has touched the ground, the point shall be counted. In case of a let, the service or stroke counts for nothing and the server shall serve again. A let does not annul a previous fault.

17. It is a good return:

(*a*) If a ball touch the net or post, provided that it passes over either and drops into the court;

(*b*) If a ball served or returned drop into the proper court and screw or be blown back over the net, and the player whose turn it is to strike reach over the net and play the ball, provided that neither he nor any part of his clothes or racket touch the net and that the stroke be otherwise good;

(*c*) If a ball be returned outside the post either above or below the level of the top of the net, even though it touch the post, provided that it drop into the proper court;

(*d*) If a player's racket pass over the net after he has

returned the ball, provided the ball pass over the net before being played and be properly returned;

(*e*) If a player succeed in returning a ball, served or in play, which strikes a ball lying in the court.

18. The server wins a stroke if the striker-out volleys a service, or fails to return the service or the ball in play (except in the case of a let), or returns the service or ball in play so that it drops outside any of the lines which bound his opponent's court, or otherwise loses a stroke, as provided by Law 20.

19. The striker-out wins a stroke if the server serve two consecutive faults, or fail to return the ball in play (except in the case of a let), or return the ball in play so that it drop outside any of the lines which bound his opponent's court, or otherwise lose a stroke, as provided by Law 20.

20. Either player loses a stroke if the ball in play touch him or anything that he wears or carries, except his racket in the act of striking; or if he volley the ball (unless he thereby makes a good return), no matter whether he is standing within the limits of the court or outside them; or if he touch or strike the ball in play with his racket more than once consecutively; or if he or his racket (in his hand or otherwise) touch the net or any of its supports while the ball is in play; or if he volley the ball before it has passed the net.

21. On either player winning his first stroke, the score is called 15 for that player; on either player winning his second stroke, the score is called 30 for that player; on either player winning his third stroke the score is called 40 for that player; and the fourth stroke won by either player is scored game for that player; except as below:

If both players have won three strokes, the score is called deuce; and the next stroke won by either player is scored advantage for that player. If the same player win the next stroke, he wins the game; if he loses the next stroke, the score is again called deuce; and so on until either player win the two strokes immediately following the score at deuce, when the game is scored to that player.

22. The player who first wins six games wins a set; except as below:

If both players win five games, the score is called games all; and the next game won by either player is scored advantage-game for that player. If the same player win the

next game, he wins the set; if he lose the next game the score is again called games all; and so on until either player win the two games immediately following the score of games all, when he wins the set.

NOTE.—Players may agree not to play advantage-sets but to decide the set by one game after arriving at the score of games all.

23. The players shall change sides at the end of the first, third, and every subsequent alternate game of each set, and at the end of each set, unless the number of games in such set be even. It shall, however, be open to the players by mutual consent and notification to the umpire before the opening of the second game of the match to change sides instead at the end of every set, until the odd and concluding set, in which they shall change sides at the end of the first, third, and every subsequent alternate game of such set.

24. When a series of sets is played, the player who was server in the last game of one set shall be striker-out in the first game of the next.

ODDS.

25. In the case of received odds:

(*a*) One-sixth of 15 is one stroke given in every six games of a set in the position shown by the annexed table (1);

(*b*) Similarly, two-sixths, three-sixths, four-sixths, and five-sixths of 15 are respectively two, three, four, and five strokes given in every six games of a set in the position shown by the table:

(*c*) The above odds may be given in augmentation of other receiving odds;

(*d*) Fifteen is one stroke given at the beginning of every game of a set;

(*e*) Thirty is two strokes given at the beginning of every game of a set;

(*f*) Forty is three strokes given at the beginning of every game of a set;

26. In the case of owed odds:

(*a*) One-sixth of 15 is one stroke owed in every six games of a set in the position shown by the annexed table (2).

(1)

	First Game	Second Game	Third Game	Fourth Game	Fifth Game	Sixth Game
One-sixth of 15 . .	0	15	0	0	0	0
Two-sixths of 15. .	0	15	0	15	0	0
Three-sixths of 15 .	0	15	0	15	0	15
Four-sixths of 15. .	0	15	0	15	15	15
Five-sixths of 15. .	0	15	15	15	15	15

Example.—A player receiving four-sixths of 15 receives nothing in the first and third games, and 15 in the second, fourth, fifth, and sixth games of a set.

NOTE.—The table is not carried beyond the sixth game, as in the next and every succeeding six games the odds recur in the same positions.

(2)

	First Game	Second Game	Third Game	Fourth Game	Fifth Game	Sixth Game
One-sixth of 15 . .	15	0	0	0	0	0
Two-sixths of 15. .	15	0	15	0	0	0
Three-sixths of 15 .	15	0	15	0	15	0
Four-sixths of 15. .	15	0	15	0	15	15
Five-sixths of 15. .	15	0	15	15	15	15

Example.—A player owing two-sixths of 15 would owe 15 in the first and third games, and nothing in the second, fourth, fifth, and sixth games.

NOTE.—The table is not carried beyond the sixth game, as in the next and every succeeding six games the odds recur in the same positions.

(*b*) Similarly, two-sixths, three-sixths, four-sixths, and five-sixths of 15 are respectively two, three, four, and five strokes owed in every six games of a set in the position shown by the following table:

(*c*) The above odds may be owed in augmentation of other owed odds;

(*d*) Fifteen is one stroke owed at the beginning of every game of a set;

(*e*) Thirty is two strokes owed at the beginning of every game of a set;

(*f*) Forty is three strokes owed at the beginning of every game of a set.

THE THREE-HANDED AND FOUR-HANDED GAMES.

27. The above laws shall apply to the three-handed and four-handed games, except as below:

28. For the three-handed and four-handed games, the court is 36 feet in width. Within the side lines, at a distance of 4½ feet from them and parallel with them, are drawn the service side lines. In other respects the court is similar to that which is described in Law 1.

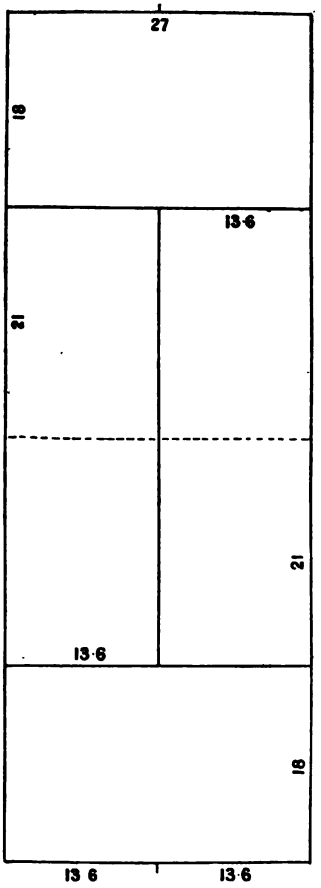
29. In the three-handed game the single player shall serve in every alternate game.

30. In the four-handed game the pair who have the right to serve in the first game may decide which partner shall do so, and the opposing pair may decide similarly for the second game. The partner of the player who served in the first game shall serve in the third; and the partner of the player who served in the second game shall serve in the fourth, and so on in the same order in all the subsequent games of a set.

31. The players shall take the service alternately throughout each game, no player shall receive or return a service delivered to his partner, and the order of service and of striking-out, once arranged, shall not be altered, nor shall the striker-out change courts to receive the service, before the end of the set.

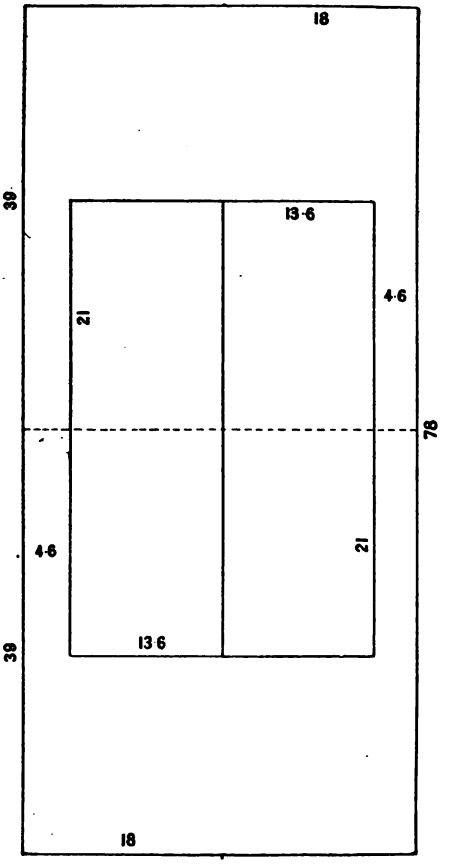
32. The ball must drop within the service line, half-court

PLAN OF COURTS.*



* Measurements in feet and inches

PLAN OF COURTS.*



* Measurements in feet and inches.

line, and service side line of the court which is diagonally opposite to that from which it was served, or upon any such line.

33. It is a *fault* if the ball do not drop as provided in Law 32, or if it touch the server's partner, or anything he wears or carries. If, however, the ball in service strike either the striker-out or his partner, the server wins the stroke.

34. If a player serve out of his turn, the umpire, as soon as the mistake is discovered by himself or by one of the players, shall direct the player to serve who ought to have served; but all strokes scored, and any fault served before such discovery, shall be reckoned. If a game shall have been completed before such discovery, then the service in the next alternate game shall be delivered by the partner of the player who served out of his turn; and so on in regular rotation.

KNOTTY POINTS

ADDENDA TO THE LAWS OF THE GAME

Revised and approved by the Council of the Lawn Tennis Association.

1. If a player throws his racket at the ball and so returns the ball into the proper court, he loses the stroke.

2. If the player catches the ball on his racket, walks with it to the net, and, reaching over, drops it into court, he loses the stroke, as such a proceeding cannot be defined as an "act of striking" (*vide* Law 15).

3. If a player, to avoid touching the net, jumps over it while the ball is in play, he loses the stroke.

4. If an umpire erroneously calls "fault," and at once corrects himself and cries "play," and the striker-out fails to return the ball, a "let" must be allowed.

5. If in a Double game the server's service strikes *either* of his opponents, he wins the stroke.

6. If a match is postponed on account of rain or darkness coming on, or for any similar reason, and is continued on the subsequent day, the match shall be resumed from the point where it was discontinued on the previous day. An entirely new commencement may only be made with the consent of the referee.

7. If two players in a handicap play at the wrong odds, the match stands, unless they have been wrongly instructed by the referee, or any person or persons acting under his instructions, in which case the loser may claim to have the match replayed, unless the mistake in the odds has been in his favour. Such claim must be made within a reasonable time.

8. A similar decision must be given if two players neglect to play advantage-sets when one of the conditions of the event in which they are competing is that advantage-sets should be played.

AFTERWORD

Now the time has come for me to lay aside my pen and say "Au revoir." It shall not be "Good-bye." I dislike that word, and moreover I am sure to see you, especially you, my fair reader, at Wimbledon, volleying like a man and taking all the championships that are open to you, and if perchance I should see some of my own tricks of the trade, I shall say to myself—if I cannot get some one to introduce me—"Ah, I have spoken to her, and it may be that her little head is full of the tennis lore that she has read in that big tome of mine," and shall there be no pleasure in that, even the imagining, and hoping, and speculating, as to which of you has, and which of you hasn't, and which of you who has has laid it to heart—there's a lot of "which" about this, but it is a bewitching subject. I can assure you, my readers, that even in this, to me there will be enjoyment. I am one of those pitiable objects, a tennis failure. Nay, do not hasten to sympathise with me until you hear my sad story; then I will take all you can give me. Did you ever meet a man who couldn't? and to reverse my previously delivered pronouncement, for sympathetic treatment of a man, I always recommend—well, you know.

To return to this matter of failure. In 1905, during a cricket match at Lord's, I asked Dr. Grace, the absolute all-round English champion cricketer—you must wait twenty years before you begin to hurl any present day names at me—if it had ever occurred to him that the whole secret of success in life was exemplified in his cricketing career in two words. It had not, and I had to supply the missing words. They are "Work! Concentrate!" and that is what you must do if you desire to become the Grace of tennis or to hold the championship of England for a modest five years. This is where we may learn in sport the lesson which is of so much value in life. If you would excel, nothing but hard, unremitting application, and the focussing of your energies on that which you choose as your specialty, will pull you through. It has been the non-observance of this on my part which has led to others holding the Championship of England so often. With tennis, I have mixed golf, cricket, cycling, football, shooting, rowing, swimming, marbles; in fact, everything where fun, and good fellowship, and healthy bodily exercise were to be had, was good enough for me, but the result is—Mr. Doherty is Lawn Tennis Champion of the World. I can do all things in the way of sport indifferently well, yet excel in none, and so, you budding champions, take warning by my sad fate—which I am bound to say I "took on" with my eyes open, and have never for an instant regretted—and put your mind and body to that which you mean to excel in; and as it is with you in sport, so let it be in life; and let me say one

word, although I do not wish to finish up by preaching a sermon, always remember that of the two, perhaps—I am careful, I say perhaps—the grim game is the more important.

I think it would be hard to find any one more passionately fond of sport in every way than I am, yet sometimes I have a faint suspicion that possibly play enters too largely into our lives.

Before saying "Au revoir," I wish to assure you that if you derive half the pleasure from reading this book that I have had in writing it, I shall be more than repaid. It has been to me really a labour of love, and if perchance I should not have made myself clear on any point which interests you, I hope you will let me know, and it will give me the greatest pleasure to assist you, if I can, and if, as is far more likely, you find the work faulty and incorrect, and you should take sufficient interest in the game to tell me, I shall esteem it a kindness.

I think that about ten times the number of people who do should play lawn tennis, and it has partly been with the idea of popularising the game that I have written this book, and taken especial pains to make it clear that it, and all that is in it, is intended for every lady who desires to play tennis well, or who has children growing up and starting to play—and I have no objection to the men reading it.

Lawn Tennis is a game worthy of every encouragement, a manly, brainy game, and if it should prove that my efforts have assisted to place it in the least degree in a better position, either as regards play or popularity, I shall be very pleased.

I have been moving towards the door for a long time. I am really going now. Just a word or two more, and I have finished. I have endeavoured in dealing with my subject to infuse a little more lightness into it than is generally done in books on sport. Please you, do not consider my lightness levity, and I will say

AU REVOIR.

APPENDICES

APPENDIX A

SINCE my last visit to England I have quite convinced myself that one of the reasons that Lawn Tennis is not even more popular than it is, may be found in the fact that it does not receive the amount of general press notice that its merits entitle it to. The fault does not lie with the press. It is with secretaries of clubs and players who can wield the pen. The press is always glad to receive interesting sporting information, and it should be the aim of every player who has the interests of the game at heart to see that Lawn Tennis gets its fair share of attention. Very many of those who play Lawn Tennis have but small appreciation of the science there is in it. I go so far as to say that I do not believe there is another game that is played which allows such scope for brain work and strategy, and I am prepared to prove it with my body, and if that fails I shall have to rely on the small allowance of brains which Nature has endowed me with. I think that every Lawn Tennis player should consider it his duty to assist to the utmost those papers specially dealing with the game, and to put it within the power of those managing them to illustrate and enliven their pages, so as to give them the human interest which can never quite exist in cold type. How the game lends itself to the art of an expert photographer may be seen from the examples in this book.

APPENDIX B

As the precise manner in which the rotation that produces that which has been christened the American service is caused, is very hard to explain in writing, I am giving here the correspondence which lately took place on the subject in the columns of *Lawn Tennis and Croquet,* the official organ of the Lawn Tennis Association. It will probably render slightly clearer the explanation already given.

THE AMERICAN SERVICE.

TO THE EDITOR OF "LAWN TENNIS."

SIR,— . . . . . .

At the bottom of page 10, in dealing with the American service, the author says: "The ball travels on the racket itself from the wood at one side right to the wood at the other side. There is no service or stroke in which the ball touches so much of the gut of the racket."

In my opinion both these statements are inaccurate, and with your permission, I shall give my reasons for saying so.

As to number one. Every tennis player knows that the effective portion of a racket is at or about the centre, and that the short strings have, comparatively speaking, little "life" in them. The American is too "cute" a player to use his "dead" gut for any stroke unless forced to it.

Directly the ball is fairly "gripped" by the racket, in all "cut" services, it naturally begins to revolve, although no doubt at the moment of impact there must be a slight amount of "slip," as engineers call it, until the racket has really compressed and held

the ball. After that moment I contend that the ball actually revolves on the face of the racket for a quite inconsiderable distance. According to Messrs. Doherty, after being hit on one side of the racket the ball revolves (for if it merely slipped there would be no spin) " right to the wood at the other side." That is to say, that even on our latest narrow-faced model the ball perambulates on the gut of the racket for nearly six inches. Now what I want to know is, if it stays there so long, what makes it get off at the other side just before it touches wood?

I contend that the American service differs in the mechanical principles involved in the rotation of the ball in no material respect from the ordinary fore-hand cut service, and that both these services are hit very near the middle of the racket, although, of course, from the very nature of the stroke it frequently is a little off the middle of the racket. I also contend that the time and distance that the ball dwells and travels on the face of the racket is infinitesimal. As a matter of fact, it will be found on experiment that in all effective " cut " services, which have " spin " or " work " imparted to them by being struck with the face of the racket while it is travelling in a direction other than the intended line of flight of the ball, the actual period and distance of contact between ball and racket is much less than that estimated by the Messrs. Doherty. Any one who has witnessed the lightning deliveries of some of the Americans could scarcely conceive the ball dwelling on the face of the racket while it made nearly a complete revolution.

If any one has any doubt as to the matter, let him take a perfectly new ball, blacken the face of a racket with lampblack and grease, or some similar compound which will readily brush, but not fly, off, and serve the American or any other cut service, and he will be surprised to find how short a distance the ball travels on the racket. I should allow from an inch to an inch and a half for the impact and compression of the ball, and if beyond that the ball revolves on the face of the racket for two inches, or anything like it, I shall be astonished.

The experiment might possibly be more clearly demonstrated on a blackened ball with a whitened racket.

In all cut services it is the momentary grip of the racket on the ball as it travels obliquely across the intended line of flight which imparts the spin to the ball. . . . . .

As to the second statement, that "there is no service or stroke in which the ball touches so much of the gut of the racket," I say that depends solely upon the ability of the player and his desire. Mechanically there is no reason why the ordinary overhead fore-hand cut service, or the under-hand cut service, cannot be made to stay on the face of the racket, if desired, as long as the American service.

I shall be pleased if you can find space for this letter. I think the subject should possess considerable interest for those who make a study of the theory of the game, and I should like to hear what some of your leading players have to say on the subject.—Yours very truly, P. A. VAILE.

THE AMERICAN SERVICE.

TO THE EDITOR OF "LAWN TENNIS."

SIR,—While Messrs. Davis and Ward were in England in 1901, I believe I played against them in practice and matches more than any one else, and during their games at Wimbledon I watched their service most carefully. Many English players have tried to imitate it, but I have seen none that can be said to approach it, either in the manner of execution or in the amount of spin produced on the ball. My first belief is, that as the ball is hit more than once during the execution of the stroke, by the laws of the game it is a foul stroke. But that is not the question of the moment. I am writing this to try and disprove what Mr. P. A. Vaile says on the subject in your last issue. He maintains that the ball hardly travels at all across the face of the racket. My idea is that it travels about 4 inches.

Let me describe, as best I can, Mr. Ward's service, he being right-handed. The ball is thrown up with the left hand, rather to the left of the server's face, not very high, as after reaching the summit of its flight it is caught on the centre of the racket, above—though rather behind—the server's head. There it is gripped, and the spin on the ball started, by drawing the racket—the head of which is slightly inclined backwards—across from left to right in a curved forward sweep—the ball revolving in

the opposite direction across the face of the racket—until finally leaving it, near the wood-work in the top left-hand corner. (As often as not, the ball actually hits the frame itself before going on its way, as any one who has watched the service can vouch for.) The final forward and downward movement of the racket practically slings the ball in the direction required.—Yours very truly,

G. M. SIMOND.

THE AMERICAN SERVICE AND HOW IT IS PRODUCED.

TO THE EDITOR OF "LAWN TENNIS."

SIR,—I have read Mr. G. M. Simond's letter in your last issue which he wrote, to quote his words, "to try and disprove what Mr. P. A. Vaile says on the subject."

I will assume, for the sake of argument, that Mr. Simond's ideas are absolutely correct. Then the result will be that Messrs. Doherty are wrong on both points, and that I am right on the first and partially wrong on the second.

Messrs. Doherty say, "The ball travels on the racket itself from the wood at one side right to the wood at the other side."

I say it travels from the centre of the racket for a quite inconsiderable distance.

Mr. Simond says it travels from the centre—thus corroborating in an important point my contentions—for a greater distance than I think it does, and diagonally across the racket.

As my main assertion was that Messrs. Dohertys' statements are incorrect, and as Mr. Simond's own pronouncements from personal observation flatly contradict in each essential point those statements, I fail to see how this can be called disproving my assertions.

Mr. Simond says he had unrivalled opportunities for observation, and, from his lucid description of the service, I can quite believe he had, but I am afraid this is a case where the quickness of the racket deceives the eye.

I must at once dismiss from my mind the double-hit theory, first, because it is quite contrary to the accepted principles of the small amount of mechanical knowledge which I have acquired, and, secondly, as being such a grave reflection on the eyesight

and hearing of English umpires and linesmen, for, as Mr. Simond says, if the service is so delivered it is, of course, a foul stroke. They should have been faulted every other service, for if Mr. Simon could see this the linesman should have been able to do so.

I would not care to contradict Mr. Simond about his having seen the ball hitting the wood, although if it does so, it is strange Messrs. Doherty did not observe it and specifically refer to this extraordinary habit. We all know how little use the wood is in the propulsion of the ball, and if the object were to get a greater spin, we may rest assured that the wood would not long remain so incapable of frictional engagement as it is at present. The American knows enough of applied mechanics to speedily cover it with indiarubber or some similar substance.

From Mr. Simond's last sentence: "The final forward and downward movement of the racket practically slings the ball in the direction required," it would appear that he considers that there are two motions of the racket. Summing this all up it amounts to this: the ball is hit in the centre, revolves across the face of the racket diagonally to the left-hand top corner, and is there caught by the wood at least every other stroke, and then flung across the net much as a lacrosse ball is delivered in play. Now any one who has seen a lacrosse player catch a ball knows very well that, like a cricketer taking a catch, he "gives" to the ball at the moment of contact. If this be necessary with a slackly strung thing like a crosse, how much more would it be so with a tautly strung racket, instead of doing as the Americans undoubtedly do, striking the ball.

However, I may say at once that I disagree with Mr. Simond's contentions about what happens after the ball hits the centre of the racket, but I am pleased to see that I am at one with him in regard to that most important point, viz., that the ball is hit by the centre of the racket.

I am told that the Americans were most careful to conceal the "secret" of their service. I should have "beaten" them for it if I had wanted it. I should have set about four cinematographic cameras on them, at about as many angles, and by the time I had compared the results on the screen, and carefully examined the photographs separately, I should probably have known more about it than they did themselves. Of my little

stock of tennis knowledge, as of my pet cigars, I always want the other man to taste, and, of course, say how good it is, which, unfortunately, so far as regards the tennis portion, he is not always prepared to do. I do not say the Americans are wrong to conceal their knowledge, but it is not my idea of advancing the game, and if all players thought as they do the progress of budding champions would be rendered unnecessarily arduous.

Since I wrote my first letter, a friend of Mr. Simond, who is a tennis player, and is an engineer by profession, has tried in a most interesting manner the experiment with a coloured racket, as suggested by me. He found the greatest mark he could produce on the ball was three inches, and that the actual compression or grip of the ball was two inches. Deducting this two inches from the length of the mark, it leaves for rotation on the face of the racket one inch, or exactly half of what I gave it as the extreme limit of travel, namely two inches. As a reference to my letter will show, I felt certain I was allowing myself a big margin.

Having now dealt with Mr. Simond's contentions, I propose, if you can find room for it, to show how the service of Davis and Ward, and of all other players who get that peculiar bound (for they are not the only ones in the world who do it), is produced. It is very hard to explain it on paper, but I shall at least try.

There are practically only four classes of rotatory motion of which the ball is capable, the North, South, East, and West of spin, and they are as follows:—

1. Forward vertical rotation.
2. Backward vertical rotation.
3. Right to left horizontal rotation.
4. Left to right horizontal rotation.

These are the main points of the compass. All others are subsidiary. In other words, any other rotatory motion is a modification of some one of these, or more rarely a combination of some two, as when a ball is both chopped and dragged, and it is open to question if even that be not simply a modification of one of these rotatory movements.

Now any one who has studied the flight of the ball in quite a superficial manner, is well acquainted with the peculiar sudden dive of the ball which has been driven with a good deal of

forward vertical rotation. Directly the initial velocity caused by the impact of the racket has weakened sufficiently, the ball dives for or about the base-line like a shot bird, and for the purposes of this illustration I shall liken the end of its flight to a quarter of the circumference of a circle.

Considering the rotation which is upon this ball, one would naturally expect it to grip the ground and dart suddenly forward, but it does not. It is well known that the angle of reflection is the same as the angle of incidence—that is, to put it a little more plainly, that a ball without rotation of any kind will rebound from a solid surface at practically the same angle as that at which it strikes it. This ball endeavours to obey the natural law, and the force of its impact is sufficient to bring it up from the ground at a much greater angle than one would expect, considering the rotation, but immediately it has escaped from the "grip" of mother earth, the momentarily checked rotation continues to assert itself, and its bound assumes practically the same shape as the end of its flight, a quarter of a circle; so that we now have two quarters of a circle touching each other at the point where the ball pitched, with the horns or disengaged ends pointing in opposite directions in the line of flight of the ball.

It must be borne in mind that this ball is rotating on an axis which is absolutely horizontal, and therefore parallel to the surface of the court.

Having got this, I want you to mentally construct the line of flight, from the striker-out's racket to that of his opponent, of, say, rigid iron tubing. You will then have a long, slightly curved line of tubing ending in a quarter of a circle which rests on the ground, and from which at its point of contact with the earth springs another quarter of a circle, whose disengaged end is at the racket of the opposing player, who, let us say, is in the position of one just about to make a fore-hand drive.

I want you to consider that any portion of this tubing is a ball having forward vertical rotation as stated before, and rotating on a horizontal axis parallel with the surface of the court, or, to be more precise, let us say with the service lines or base lines.

Now let both players stand as they are, the player who has hit the ball holding his end to the iron flight, while he sends his

assistant to the other end to push the iron tubing over until it lies at an angle of 45 degrees to the ground. You must remember about the horizontal axis.

What has happened now? The line of flight is at an angle of 45 degrees to the ground. *So is the axis of rotation of the ball.* Look now and you will see the receiver still at one end of the tube was pointing at the player's racket, on his right hand, until the assistant pushed it over to an angle of 45 degrees. Look now and you will see the receiver still at one end of the flight, the iron resting on the ground as before, but the disengaged end of the tube is away on his left hand, and, as our American friends would say, "that is all there is to it."

The rotation of the ball is forward vertical spin, but it is produced at an angle of about 45 degrees. The service really is the fore-hand lifting drive, played as an over-head volley, but with both flight and axis of rotation at an angle of, say, 45 degrees, instead of the line of flight being at right angles to the ground and the axis of rotation horizontal.

A leading English player serves an approximation of this service with practically pure lift. If he were to throw his ball up more in a line with his left shoulder, and about a foot away from it, and come across the ball more, he would produce the service without trouble. It is evident the theory of the stroke has not been properly grasped in this country, otherwise the practice would have been here, for I think we may say without further boasting that finer execution than is shown by our leading players would be hard to find.

I was never worried about the production of this stroke. It was always a certainty in my mind that it could not be produced by right to left horizontal rotation, for according to all natural law that must break from right to left. I am a bit of a Sherlock Holmes, and as this left me only one possibility in the way of rotation that could produce this bound, I fastened on to it without delay. The same theory, of course, holds good when striking the ball on the fore-hand side, or when a left-hander is delivering it from over his right shoulder.

I have now and again had a vague suspicion that the rotation of the ball might have been affected in some way by a spin given to it by the fingers as it was thrown up, but

I am bound to confess that I have never really detected such an action. It is, however, beyond any doubt that such a spin could be given to the ball in the manner indicated that the impact of the racket, as it travels across the ball at an oblique angle to its intended line of flight, will either accentuate such spin or meet a contending rotation, and so take a stronger hold of the ball. This is, unquestionably, a mechanical possibility, but I merely advance it as a suggestion for more active minds than mine to grapple with.

I hope that my reference to the very excellent work of the Messrs. Doherty will not be looked upon in any way as of a carping nature. I have derived much pleasure from reading their book and watching their play, and I am sure that both tennis players and the game owe them much for the manner in which, by personal example, skill, and literary effort, they have striven not only to maintain lawn tennis in its proper high position, but to elevate it—and not only striven, but succeeded.

This is my explanation of the American service, which, so far, seems to have proved a puzzle to players in this country; and if any player can show me that I am wrong I shall be as pleased as I should be to receive at his hands across the net a good "doing," although, needless to say, in both instances I should prefer the result to be the other way.

I have been so rash as to write a book on lawn tennis myself, and I naturally hope that in a short time it will be in the hands of all the tennis players of England and many who are not now brethren of the racket, and I extend to them all a hearty invitation to do unto me as I am doing to others, only, like David Harum, I have done it first. It is only by keen but sportsmanlike criticism of work accomplished and by earnest further research that the science of lawn tennis or any other science can be advanced.—I am, etc., P. A. VAILE.

APPENDIX C

A NEW ZEALANDER'S CRITICISM OF LAWN TENNIS IN ENGLAND.

Extracted from *Lawn Tennis and Croquet* of May 11, 1904.

By P. A. Vaile.

The editor of *Lawn Tennis* has been good enough to ask me to state my impression of the game as played in England.

Needless to say I appreciate fully the compliment, and have much pleasure in acceding to his request, but, in so doing, I must confess that I feel myself to be in a very delicate position. Since I arrived here I have experienced at the hands of the lawn tennis players of England, the Lawn Tennis Association, and, indeed, every one associated with the game, such kindness and consideration that, in dealing with the English game, I can hardly rid myself of the feeling that I am sitting in judgment on my hosts' cigars or wine.

I believe, however, that it is for the good of the game that discussion of its finer points should be encouraged, so that, if possible, the tactics and practice of tennis may be improved, so I venture to hope that I may be excused if I indicate, with all due humility, the few points which have most impressed me. These are :—

1. A stereotyped, too diagonal service.
2. No attention is paid to "centre theory."
3. Straight smashing.
4. Slowness in getting to the net.
5. Position of striker-out's partner in Doubles.
6. Weak second service.

7. A marked tendency in Doubles to stand in court and watch lobs.

I will deal with these points in the order named :—

1. A stereotyped, too diagonal service. I cannot help thinking that there is far too little variety in the service, particularly as regards placing. The pace and length of the first service are nearly always good, but it is so similar in placing and bound.

It is, especially in Doubles, nearly always too diagonal. This means that the striker-out very frequently has the choice of a drive down the side line from outside the side line into the corner of his opponents' court, or else of the sharpest of quick dropping cross-court shots at a most difficult angle for the server, whereas if, for the sake of illustration, he be made to take the service from, say, 6 ft. behind the half-court line at the base line, he is completely robbed of an effective side-line shot, the net man can stand nearer in to the centre of the court, and the striker-out is absolutely compelled (if he return it that side) to hit the ball back to the server, as he runs up, in a much straighter line, instead of dropping it sharply across the court only a few yards from the net; also, it gives the man at the net a much greater chance of stepping across and killing the return, and tends to make the striker-out search for the side lines in a perilous manner. It also, to a great extent, removes the doubt, which so frequently now exists, as to who is going to take the balls which go down the centre of the court, as the man at the net covers so much more of it on this service than he can when, on the diagonal delivery, his opponent has a choice of both sides of the court. I always think that instead of the service being diagonal, with straight ones for a change, it should be straight ones for the general run, with diagonals for a change. One does not prefer a cross-court drive to a straight one to go in on. Why, then, should this not apply equally to the service? I think if any one will take the trouble to draw these angles on a court it will be apparent that a centred service is, particularly in a Double, of much greater value than the diagonal one. Even when serving into the back-hand court I repeatedly give my opponent the service on his fore-hand, unless his stroke is something very exceptional. If your service has a good length down the centre of the

court, and is quickly followed to the net, it is hard for him to beat you by a drive.

2. No attention is paid to "centre theory." This is on the same lines as the first objection. Although there are a large number of strokes played straight up and down the court, players generally choose a shot on or near the corners, particularly the back-hand corner, to go in on. This leaves both side-line and extreme diagonal shots open, whereas a well-centred ball, with good length, enables the attacking player to get to the middle of the net and halve the triangle, down one side of which the ball must travel unless it is driven straight at him or lobbed, and I am of course assuming that the stroke was good enough to go in on. Two minutes with a ruler and a pencil on a court drawn to scale will convince you of the value of this.

3. Straight smashing. In smashing, especially from behind the service line, there seems to be an absence of "body," the transference of weight from leg to leg at the critical moment (even when it does take place) is not hearty or emphatic enough, and the arm is asked to do too much; also the direction is frequently bad, being too straight down court. By far too large a proportion of smashes are "picked up" and returned.

4. Slowness in getting to the net. This is more accurately described, perhaps, as running to the wrong place, for directly the service line is reached, and frequently before, the player, generally speaking, slackens off, so that he gets the return at his feet, instead of playing it down over the net.

5. Position of striker-out's partner in Doubles. To my mind the most serious defect in English Doubles is the position of the striker-out's partner. He may frequently be found about two yards inside the service line, sometimes much nearer the net. I am very strong on this point. In my opinion, absolutely the only justification for this position is winning from it. When the striker-out's partner is right in, unless the striker-out is marvellously quick at getting up, anything that his *vis à vis* "gets on to" goes clean across through a deadly cross-court gap. About two yards inside the service line may be a justifiable position for players like the Dohertys. The striker-out is the sooner in the right relative position for

Doubles players, namely, in a line with each other, and they can play low volleys in an inimitable manner. The cross-court gap is closed, and they have secured some yards of attacking position, but to how many is it given to thus justify a position which, I contend, is for 98 per cent. of players untenable? I watched this carefully during the recent tournament, and at Wimbledon in 1905, and was much struck by the utter helplessness of the striker-out's partner. I am certain this does not, generally speaking, pay. The Americans do not believe in it. (I have specially referred to this point under the chapters on "Doubles" and "Personalities." It is impossible to condemn the English formation too strongly. Given pairs of equal merit the English formation must lose every time.)

6. Weak second service. Generally there is a fair length even to this, but it is frequently a plain, high-bounding ball, which comes to hand nicely for a severe drive, whereas with a bit of work its flight might be rendered more deceptive and its bound be kept lower, so that it has to be played up instead of being swept down.

7. A marked tendency in Doubles to stand in court and watch lobs. When a lob is put up there is only one of two positions permissible—right on the net if it be good enough, and if it be not, then away out in the "back blocks" hoping. There should be no half-way house, yet time and again I caught players in the three-quarter court gazing admiringly at some short, soft stuff they had tossed up, instead of, the moment it had left their rackets, and they felt it was bad, racing for the open country.

Speaking generally of the play, there is a marked tendency to play an ascending volley, even when there is plenty of time, and a step forward would make it an over-head one. My motto about volleying is, "Never let anything touch the earth which you can play conveniently on the volley. Never play a volley under-hand that you can deal with over-head."

There seemed to me to be a paucity of strokes that I could not account for. I watched the players most critically to ascertain, if possible, the cause of this. I noticed especially the absence of wrist work, and this gave me a line. I saw then that many players hold their thumbs more round to the front of the racket than a great number of Colonial players do. The

bottom point of the V formed by the spread of the thumb and forefinger practically bisects lengthwise the upper side of the handle of the racket, in fact, is inclined, if anything, to go beyond the middle. I tried the hold and found it settled me for wrist work, especially for all cut services, but of course it may not be so with most players.

The points I admire about English tennis are the pace and length of the first service, the low volleying, which at times is delightful to watch, and in many cases the half-volleying, although the value of this is discounted considerably, as even the most finished exponents of the stroke do not take advantage of, say, the eight or ten feet saved by it, to be by so much nearer the net.

I must add to the other virtues of English tennis accuracy and steadiness, but I must confess that, especially in Doubles, I would like to see more sting in the work, and the players making the return severe enough for them to get their *bête noir*, the lob, out of their heads, and take up a strong attacking position at the net so as to have the killing cross-court angles, instead of having to play an ascending volley from near the service line, which, naturally, cannot be played at a severe pace or acute angle.

I might perhaps also mention a fault which is exaggerated in America, and that is the indiscriminate running in on the service. It is just as injudicious to run in on a badly pitched or placed service as it is to go up on a poor return, yet players consistently run in on "stuff" which simply courts disaster. If you run in on everything your opponent gets used to it. I believe in running in on every suitable service, but I don't do it so that my opponent knows when I am coming. I think half the art in tennis is to keep your man "guessing" all the time. It is quite useless to run in on a high bounding, poor length, diagonal service. You have some "hope" if it is down the centre.

The lob is one of the best played strokes I have seen. In its place I admire it greatly, and I have seen some admirable recoveries effected by "brainy" lobs at critical periods.

Speaking of volleying generally, I think it lacks sting and snap, and I ascribe this, quite tentatively, remember, to the hold I notice to be most prevalent. (Since this was written I

have satisfied myself that this defect is due to the prevalent unchanged grip. The greater sting in the American and Australian volleying is in this respect a useful object lesson.)

It is wonderful how the characteristics of a nation impress themselves on a game. English tennis, in my opinion, is very consistent, very steady, very solid, very plain and above-board, too honest by far. There is not enough guile in it. It seems to me to lack many of the fine wristy net shots, and snappy cross-volleys, which are such deadly scorers, and there seems a wonderful tendency, again characteristic, to take as little risk as possible with the side lines, especially when it is a case of an over-head volley.

These are only the impressions of an unsophisticated wanderer, who has nevertheless derived an immense amount of enjoyment from watching and playing tennis in every continent. I trust that none of my criticisms will be considered too searching, and I know that if, perchance, in the mass of chaff there should happen to be a whole grain it will be utilised.

I may say, perhaps, in conclusion, that although I have always realised the privilege and value of belonging to that grand freemasonry, the brotherhood of sport, a guild which has made my way pleasant the world over—for the racket, the club, the wheel, and the gun have found me boon companions wherever I have happened—yet never has the value thereof been so fully borne in upon me as by the tennis players of and in dear old England, and if I ever take to wearing a badge I think it will be a lawn tennis racket.

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